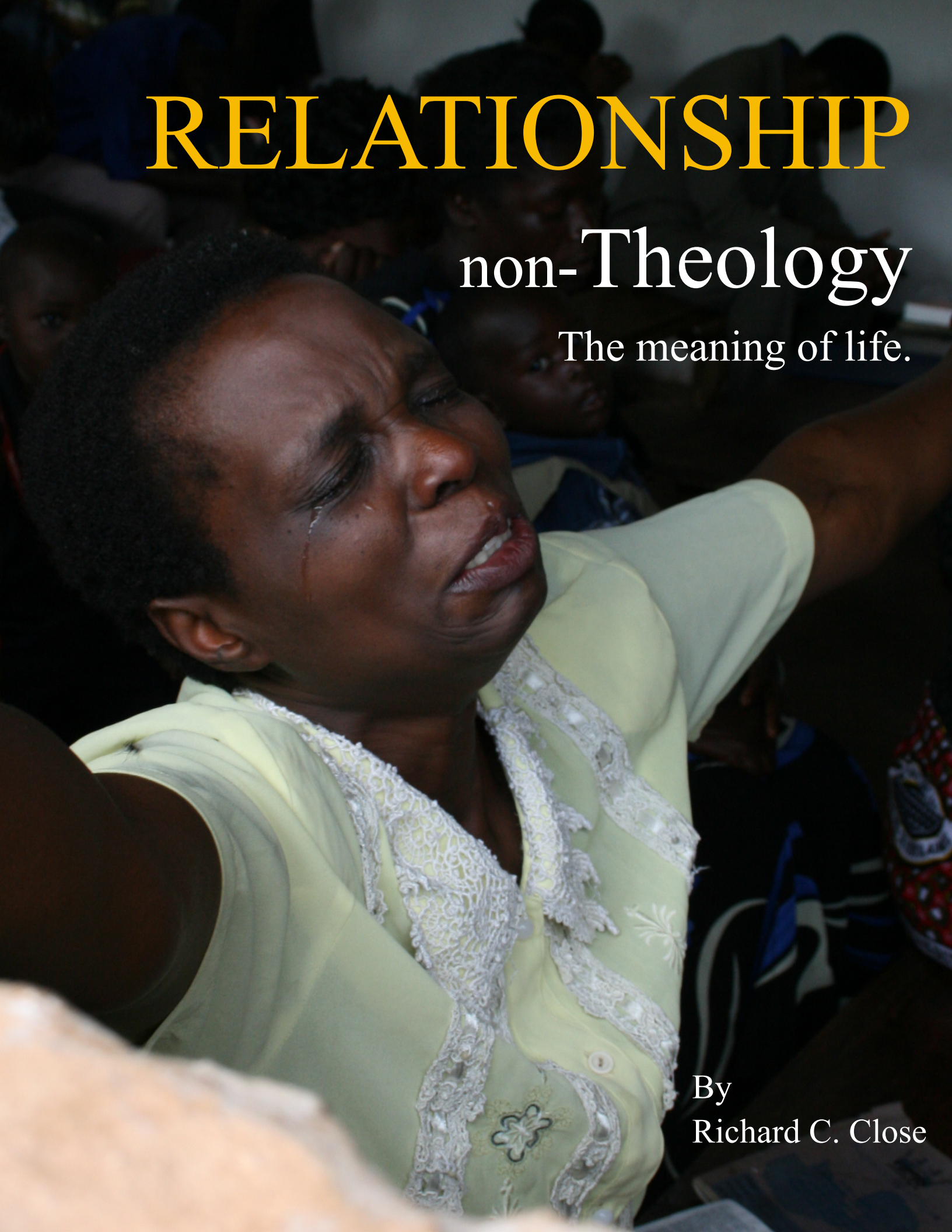

RELATIONSHIP

non-Theology

The meaning of life.

By
Richard C. Close

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Forward

Holiness is the capacity to love.

Over 2000 years ago, the Hebrew religious, business, political, and community leadership humiliated, tortured, and crucified a prophet whose only crime was to teach the people to "love one another" in spirit and deeds. He never raised an army or preached rebellion to overthrow the corrupt Hebrew or Roman leadership. The leadership mocked him and said, "come down from the cross and save yourself!." After the assassination, they gloated over his dead body (which had disappeared). And so the misguided were misled to believe Jesus was a fake. After all, He never did physically come down from the cross or liberate us from Rome. The problem with the evil delusion of the Hebrew establishment is that in reality, Jesus did come down from the cross, back for His followers, about 15 times, in the Bible, then and for billions since the crucifixion. However, God never comes down or answers the prayers of souls who mock Him. They are the blind and the deaf ones. This is why the Holy Spirit of Jesus only seeks out those who love him. How can one guide someone who refuses to listen? Why waste time?

Mark 15:30-38 NIV

30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

And then fifty years later, Rome assembled its largest army ever and leveled Jerusalem along with every Temple stone. Within 300 years, ironically Rome would then throw out its pagan Gods and convert to Christianity.

The blessing for believers, then and now, is that the Spirit of Jesus has returned to seekers of Jesus billions of times throughout history. Jesus returns in every language and country on the planet. Jesus' teachings in the Holy Bible has been translated into over 776 languages. Of course, this is after Martin Luther and William Tynsdale ripped the scripture from the control of the Church of England and Roman Catholics. Unable to be suppressed forever, after 1500 years, the true messages of Jesus' teaching got into the hands and hearts of the poor. These revolutions enabled mass Great Awakenings, in which common folk could have a direct relationship with the Spirit of God without the political-economic interference of institutions, even when an oppressive church tried to block them by burning Christian preachers and Bible readers at the stake. Today, the Bible has been translated into global languages, providing 6.2 billion people access to the teachings of Jesus to "Love one another." A far cry from the Church of England and Roman Catholics hoarding the scriptures from their flocks in Europe. So, yes, Jesus did come down, and wants a relationship with us by coming down

from the cross into our hearts. Father God, the Holy Spirit all want a relationship with their children.

Once people had direct access to Jesus' teachings, it paved the way for the proliferation of a direct relationship with Jesus' Holy Spirit. During the horrific times of the Industrial Revolution, George Whitefield and John Wesley traveled the fields, farms, and small towns of the English Isles and the American Colonies, birthing mass awakenings, and community churches as people discovered a direct relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and their creator. That intimate relationship transformed souls and communities. Yes, loving God and loving one another requires a direct, Holy relationship with the Creator. It was the Great Awakenings, stripping away institutional dogmatics and political hierarchies with a simple preacher riding a horse into open fields to teach. When the vale of theological nonsense and power grabs were pulled back, we are left with the seeker who loves Jesus and the God who loves them back in full embrace. And that is what real Christianity is. That, my friend, is Relationship non-Theology, just the people and Jesus with no add-ons.

Relationship non-Theology is when we strip away all the nonsense of theological self-gratifying misinformation and dogmatics until we are left with the innocence of a child's love for a parent. After all, it is Jesus who said we must be like children.

So here we are here with todays intellectuals mocking those with the love of God, the MBAs are educated to worship money at the expense of anyone but themselves, preachers who seek head-counts over inner transformation, Political Christians who worship racist leaders that persecute the poor, Theologians honored for their works declaring God as an "unseen" and "unknowable" creator when He is seen in everything and known by many.

As a world community, we have reached a point in war where we cannot only kill the entire populace of the planet, but also be so devastating that we can annihilate a soul's very existence by a direct nuclear hit. Our greed for the gift of our beautiful planet is setting us up for cataclysmic fires, floods, and the decimation of our food supplies. As a collaborative greed of our institutions and cultures has sunk us into planetary suicide. This is not a warning; these are terrifying facts. We are watching this unfold before our eyes like a fatal car crash in slow motion.

All because we refuse to "love one another."

Getting back to a basic child-like relationship between ourselves and the Son of the Creator, Jesus, is our only hope to save us from our collective suicide. Keep in mind that those who mocked the crucified Jesus were free to do so. They convinced themselves they were just because Jesus did not make himself known to them. Actually, he did many times, but was rejected. In the same way, today's intellectuals, academics, theologians, and political leaders

cannot believe in a relationship that they refuse to have. As Jesus once taught, “Let the dead bury the dead.”

> Relationship non-theology rests in two simple Scriptures: “God is Love,”and 'Love one another.” Everything in Christianity must joyfully surrender to these truths. It is what God’s Divine Will is, and what we do with it as his loving children.

1 John 4:77-8 NIV God Is Love
*7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because*
The meaning of life is to “Love one another.”

Jesus' teachings and miracles are the simplest and easiest to understand for everyone who walks on planet earth, whether before or after his crucifixion. His teaching comes down to one thing, ‘Love one another.” As a matter of fact, **the meaning of life is to “Love one another.”**

Love is the foundation of all existence, and in it, the cosmic Will of Love is what creates all spiritual and physical existence. Many an academic, theologian, and lost soul have banged their heads trying to figure out the meaning of life and their purpose, and yet it was, and is, so simple: “Love one another.” One’s very existence is the meaning of God’s Love. Our spiritual DNA is born of Love, and physical creation proceeds from Love.

Love is not a feeling or an idea. Love is the “Will” of creation that must create.

I tell you the truth, Had the world only embrace how glorious it could be if we actually did “loved one another.”

Before they killed Jesus He sat on top of hill overlooking Jerusalem weeping deeply and said:

“Had you only known how much I loved you.”

Intro

The meaning of life is to *"Love one another."*

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Love is the foundation of all existence, and in it, the cosmic Will of Love is what creates all spiritual and physical existence. Many an academic, theologian, and lost soul have banged their heads trying to figure out the meaning of life and their purpose, and yet it was, and is, so simple: "Love one another." One's very existence is the meaning of God's Love. Our spiritual DNA is born of Love, and physical creation proceeds from Love.

Love is not a feeling or an idea. Love is the "Will" of creation that must create.

As one of my mentors (Maharishi Mahesh Yogi) once said on a talk show. "We are thirsty fish in an ocean of love." As John the Apostle once said, "God is Love." The only Holy relationship is one based on love.

No need for degrees, titles, big buildings, Christian tribes, dogmatics, brass cups, fancy robes, stained glass windows. Just "love one another" is what you are searching for. The catch is , there is a lot of clutter in the way of doing that.

My Father God wants you to have "eyes that see and ears that hear" so He can have an intimate relationship with you and you can live a life you could never imagine, and yet we willfully choose our own traps. This book goes into developing eyes that see and ears that hear. It also guides us to avoid the traps.

Note: It is an odd and tragic thing that in seminary school, if one hears from the Holy Spirit about a piece of scripture, one is not allowed to cite it in a paper. Worse yet, if one states in class that a point is from the Holy Spirit and conflicts with established dogma (meaning the prof.), one can expect a reprimand.

> Once, two young pastors were bragging about first-person shooter games. This invokes the Holy Spirit's challenge, so I asked. "Aren't we not supposed to kill?" They responded that it was not real and was only an animation. I respond, then is animation porn rape OK for the congregation? This upset the professor for creating discord in the class. However, a few students who were filled with the Spirit came to me afterward and said the gaming discussion also grieved them. Then I remarked,

“This is why churches no longer have real prophets and prophets never get invited to cocktail parties.”

For my Critics

This work contains some strong criticism against those who have strayed so far from Jesus' command to love one another, people of authority. Many, such as academia, will defend their values by stating that no one has the right to condemn another person or institution. While it is true that I have no right to judge the judgment of their final day. That is for the Son of God to do. I have every right to rebuke people who have strayed from the path of love or have even adopted anti-Christ value systems. This is what prophets do.

There is a difference in understanding the distinction between attacking someone out of prejudice or hate to destroy or hurt them, and a rebuke. A rebuke is always out of love. The rebuke is designed to teach and save people. A rebuke teaches our kids to buckle up their safety belts, whether they like it or not. Rebukes are out of love. Rebukes are to “Avoid the misery that has not yet come.” -Patanjali, author of The Yogas. One may say, “Do not buy from Target because they were the first to buckle under DEI for racist political pressure. We take that stand out of love for minorities and ask the executives at Target to take a look at themselves, racism places their souls at risk. We may rebuke Christian Nationalists for worshiping the Father of all Lies out of concern that this makes them blind to God’s Love. We may rebuke seminary schools lost in dogmatics and grades who have strayed from building loving, and integrated communities.

Attacks are meant to destroy, while rebukes are there to expose the truth out of love. The Spirit gifts of discernment and prophecy are considered the best to have; however, they are universally regarded as radical and as the last people to ever be invited to an Ivy League alumni party.

This book has rebukes out of my love for the world. For those who consider them attacks, I would advise prayerful reflection and listening to the voice that travels on a river of love. My advice would be to repent.

Getting Started

From were you are.

Mark 5:25-34 NIV
25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.
26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had,
yet instead of getting better she grew worse.
27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,
28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."
29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that
she was freed from her suffering.
30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him.
He turned around in the crowd and asked,
"Who touched my clothes?"
31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered,
"and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "
32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.
33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her,
came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.
34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you.
Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

God is - Love

1 John 4:7-12

God Is Love

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.
10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but
that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another,
God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

The Creator's Will is to Create. That is how God Loves. Everything you have ever seen is evidence of His Divine Love. I tell you the truth, your Father God creates because He loves to.

The creation, and you, exist because our Father God loved it so. One can witness that God is the Creator by seeing that all He creates is because He loves to do so. You were created from His Love. It's in your spiritual DNA. We are created in that same spiritual DNA. When we fall in love or are even born, we start putting things together, creating. From a marriage comes homes, jobs, families, kids, communities, countries, and the world. We dream of flight and build planes, we desire to heal and build doctors, nurses, EMS, and hospitals. We are so bonded to the Creator's Will to create that one can not stop thinking, even if you try.

So "God Is Love," and you are his child. This is why the meaning of life is to
"Love one another."

Stand in front of the ocean, listening to endless waves, and know that not only was it created out of love, but it is a gift to help you live. Because the planet Earth is a gift out of divine Love, we have only one way to pay it back, and that is to give thanks and love for the One who created it. Every piece of food we eat, every drop of drink, the next breath, the next beat of the heart is all a gift of life. Sure, we can pay for lunch; however, the sun, earth, and water that the lunch came from are without a price. Now that is a parents Divine unconditional Love.

How does Divine Will create? The answer is the same way we do. The new couple falling in love need a home that protects them from the elements and nurtures their family's growth. It starts with the very subject of building a home, then leverages the wages and physical laws of the material world to put things together. In some places, parents will build their homes themselves from materials found around the village. Others save funds from working to invest in purchasing and moving into a physical home. Either way, it is the same process. A subjective will/desire translates into plans, reshaping the physical world around them into a new one. Whether by cosmic Divine Will, personal will, or a combination of both, the physical world is constantly evolving, responding to the people we share the earth with.

See the pattern here. The creator plants the unending personal will to create in us (like spiritual DNA), and then our small personal will focuses our energies and plans into a new micro universe that collaborates with the grand Macro world. Yes, we are co-creators in a collaborative sense. Truly, children of the Creator God. But do not forget, we create because we love to.

The problem comes when our personal will becomes selfish or destructive; we join the destructive forces of nature. Left unchecked, the selfish narcissist will destroy the world around them, turning the blessings of Love into a life of trauma and suffering. Selfishness is in defiance and rebellion of the true nature of eternal Divine Love. The outcome for the soul with a loving heart is eternal loving life. The outcome for a selfish soul is destructive and ends in death. After all is said and done, for those who will destroy the people and planet Love gave them, why waste the effort to keep them around after their death? Greed loses everything in life's end, while only Love goes on in the field of more blessings.

We have scholars and teachers who privately wonder, if not fear, this stern scripture: Jesus warns His followers who do not do what His Father Wills. The question is, how do they know when they are doing the Father's Will?

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

I Never Knew You

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name,
and do many mighty works in your name?'
23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

The answer what is God's Will is so simple. God is Love. His Will for us is to "love one another."
He could not be clearer in His command (and warning) that we must "Love one another.
Not such a theological mystery, is it?

One Commandment - to Love

John 13:34-35 NIV
34 "A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Personal love is spelled with a small "l" because personal love is focused universal Love (Big "L"). This is how we are created in our Father God's image, how we work with our Creator.

Everything Jesus did was out of His personal love for us. The same love that His Father God created the universe with. If we want a relationship with Jesus through His Holy Spirit, then everything we do and are to become is based on our loving one another. The only path to heaven on earth is to love one another. The only way to establish a living, breathing relationship with Jesus is through love. Contrary to many Eastern mystics' thinking, one can not have a relationship with the Creator by withdrawing from creation. No, we must embrace and work with the creation's Creator.

One can easily perform a ton of rituals, offer emotional praise, and even declare oneself born again. But if you "have not love," it is only mood-making and the pride of entitlement. A relationship with Holiness is a blessing and gift that only God grants. The Holy Spirit seeks out those who love. So, in the process of sanctification, we radically change who we are to the core, as well as the trajectory of our future. Case in point: once we become married, we will need to adapt to their personality, and it takes time. Entitlement is all about justification of my will, my tiny way. On the other hand, sanctification is the humble experience of walking a path of Thy Will be done through me. And God's Will is Love. God's Will is The Way.

We know this partnership of wills forms our personal relationships. "Now what flavor of ice cream did she want?"

1 Corinthians 13 NIV
13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love,
I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love,
I gain nothing.

Christianity is not about humble obedience to dogmatic or authoritarian rulers. The path with Jesus transforms us into acting based on what we love to do, the Creator's Will. We move with Jesus' Holy Spirit because our love for Him trusts the advice He provides, which always proves right. We find comfort in what we see and hear because the Holy Spirit has proven Himself to 100% right and in the best interest of all. Being divinely honest placed Jesus at odds with the selfish world around Him, often in dangerous situations. A relationship with Him will be the same and will place us in uncomfortable or dangerous situations. If one is a part of the "I want it all" crowd a relationship with Jesus is not for you; then again, neither is heaven.

Holiness sets us apart from the world. The prophetic are not invited to cocktail parties and sadly are rarely found in churches. At least the real ones are not. In one way, we walk with eternal Love in our hearts, but in another, we are separated from a self-centered world. Eternity is the reward for a relationship with the eternal Holy Spirit, while all things material have their end.

In a good marriage, the relationship between parents and their children remains unbroken for life. Even at work or on the soccer field, there is unseen awareness and commitment to one another. It's based on a path united together against all the trials and tribulations life throws at them. The commitment to Family is all based on love. For those raised in healthy families, the word love has a sacred meaning. However, for many of us raised by dysfunctional, abusive, or alcoholic parents, the word love can become twisted, distrusted, out of reach, or even a lie. For those of us not raised by perfect parents, we need to learn a new meaning for love. That takes time, patience, mercy, and faith that a trusting kind love is possible. This presents a real hurdle for grasping how to love one another. And yet, it can be turned into a craving to hear from the Holy Spirit now what was denied us during life. The amazing thing about our Father God's grace is that in those dark, rejected moments, He flies in to save those who cry out to him. I am one of those souls.

It's OK to fumble the ball. Here, Peter walks on water to get to Jesus.

Matthew 14:22-33

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."
29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came
toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink,
cried out, "Lord, save me!"
31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.
"You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"
32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.
33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying,
"Truly you are the Son of God."

For those with dysfunctional parents, I once learned a great lesson. You can become the father or mother you always wanted to have. For those whose parents fell short, there is the Father's Holy Spirit that will come into your heart and never fail you, hurt you, or put you down. A Father who knows your true purpose and potential in His Divine plan. He will help you be that child of God, no matter how far you fell or where you are. God's Spirit does this because He loves you; you are His child, and He wants the best for you. It is God the Father who is waiting for you to ask for His help to be the father you always wanted. In times of trouble, He will put you back in the boat. God is NOT a condemning God expressed in an evil church's dogmatics.

> In the Gospel Rescue Mission, we have a saying. "Addictions have us doing things we do not want to do and ending up in a place we never wanted to be. Love's commitment has us doing what we never thought we could do and ending up in a place we could never have imagined." It is only the path of love's commitment that sets us free.

You will discover the command to love one another is not so much a law as a path with a divine friend, Jesus. A path not only into the light. A path to become the light. A path for others to follow. In this relationship, the command to love is the only way.

Mathew 7:24-25 NIV

The Wise and Foolish Builders
24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice
is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew
and beat against that house;
yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

A Path of Love

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV

16 This is what the Lord says
"Stand at the crossroads and look
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.

So our relationship is to be one with God. "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." Mind you, that is also the desire of your Creator, who loves you.

This is not an intellectual, theological definition or description of God and the Holy Spirit. That would be the fool's waste of time. This is how to live a life with the Trinity within you. Do not try to figure it out, just embrace it.

You cannot perfect yourself. That is a supremely dogmatic delusion. You can not sacrifice enough goats, give enough, drink enough wine, or spend hours in asana down dogs. You also cannot find a relationship with your Creator, though transcending into samadhi or pious mood-making. The entire path to enlightenment, through the exercises and theological dogmatics, is a path into dead-end caves. The futility of these paths has left many disillusioned, (me included) with the assumption that there is no God or that it is impossible to attain God. But that's the devil's lie, isn't it? Evil wants us to give up because that is the opposite of faith.

Ironically, the God of Love has been at the core of who we are since our spiritual and physical birth. The truth is, God is Love, so the path to a relationship with God is through something you and everyone on this planet have: Love. The challenge is how we develop a loving relationship in a very unloving world painted in selfish entitlement, dogmatics, and social misinformation. Relationship theology is not really a theology at all, perhaps more of an un-theology. How do we pull the blinds back that wall us out from a loving relationship with our Father God?

In this work, my Father God's Holy Spirit has directed me to tell you the truth. That you have had the keys to the kingdom in your heart all along. That you do not have to win over the Love of a God that already loves you. That's right, your inheritance of eternal Love is already written on your souls. You just have to ignore the nonsense and ask for help in developing eyes that see and ears that hear, so that your relationship with your Father God can flourish. Jesus called Him Father so that we may all understand that relationship with Him as His children. The Father already knows our names, plans, tears, and loves. So the path is simple: Through His son Jesus let Him in.

I get it, God is too vast a concept for the human mind to grasp. However, the Son of God, Jesus, is graspable. Jesus makes God accessible to us, both intellectually through the Bible scripture and in a loving relationship through the Holly Spirit. This work is to tell you that your Lord Jesus still loves you and is waiting with open arms for your return. In order to be saved from troubled waters, we need to cry out and raise a hand for him to pull us out of the muck of life.

When our relationship with Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, it is transformed and strengthened, so that we can begin to lead others. As we learn about the lessons and follies of the Apostles, we learn that the relationship is not an entitlement but an ongoing process. You will learn how purity and truth can and do work through the flawed and misguided. You will learn that enlightenment is divinity working through the flawed. Because God loves his children, He has mercy on us as we grow up, guides us, and lifts us up with us anyway. Hey there, no one is a perfect employee or a child who never spills milk.

So pull the veils back and accept the inheritance of your eternal Love.

John 17:20-23 NIV

Jesus Prays for All Believers

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

What Born Again Means

Roman 10:10 Amplified version
Because if you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God], and believe in your heart that
God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

In a wedding ceremony, the confession is the part when we say “I do.” This is great, and we celebrate that moment; however, whether one actually does “do” over the long run is yet to be proven. Such it is with all relationships. Saying “I do.” forever and you are married, but that does not make a lasting marriage.

The Bible also records experiences of being filled with the Holy Spirit during Jesus' healings, at Pentecost, and later as Peter and Paul evangelize the gospel. However, the doctrine of being born again was significantly buried with mainstream Evangelical dogmatics. Some believe Born Again is achieved by simply declaring Jesus as Savior, others by speaking in tongues, and others by rituals and ordinations. John Wesley is perhaps the closest to the truth. Born Again is living with a vibrant relationship with the Holy Spirit, living within our hearts, and in our daily lives. This is a transformative process that is highly individualistic and evolves over the course of one lifetime. It is not a flash-in-the-pan thing.

When we go to a wedding, we witness the couple get married. However, the old farts in the room know that marriage is an ever-evolving process filled with both highs and lows. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a similar process of ups and downs over a lifetime. I am with the Father, and the Father is in me, which is a highly fluid experience that, with great devotion and work, lasts a lifetime, and then an eternity.

Romans 8 NIV
Life Through the Spirit
8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life
has set you free from the law of sin and death.
3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.
And so he condemned sin in the flesh,
4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The Moravian Church (community) split from the Catholic Church in Germany, arguably founding the first Protestant Church. This was 50 years before Martin Luther. The Moravians emphasized direct personal conversion to Christ, called the New Birth. The Moravian Church rejected the liturgy, wealth acquisition, indulgences, and fear-mongering about purgatory. John Wesley first came in contact with Moravians during an Atlantic storm while going to the Colonies. Each day, including during the deadly storm, they prayed with the Holy Spirit as they crossed by boat. Later, he kept in touch. Jan Hus and the Moravians stripped away the institutional dogmatic structure. It is much later, when the Wesleyan Church split from the American Episcopal Methodist, that we get the born-again theology of today. The Holiness Movement was led by figures such as Phoebe Palmer in 1835. The Holiness movement held that, first, there is a Born-Again conversion that places a soul on a path of sanctification. This path leads to a second Born-Again experience, called a "second work of grace," that provides complete sanctification and the release from all sins. This is a real oversimplification of a very complex part of Christian history. We must be careful not to pigeonhole any type of church. Churches vary greatly in the nature of their congregations and leaders. There are thousands of dying, dead Methodist churches, and then there are also Mega Methodist churches. What is interesting is that the Holiness movement, the Wesleyan Church, is the only Christian sect that consistently grew in the past decade. It is also very localized and stripped of much higher church institutional structures, no bishops etc.. Like the Monrovians, it's all about the relationship with Jesus and loving a multiracial community.

There are many differences within the Evangelical church regarding the Born Again. Basically, in this line of thinking, a person is first saved, at which point he is justified and born again. Following this, he experiences a period of growth. This ultimately culminates in a second work of grace whereby the Holy Spirit cleanses his heart of original sin, eradicating all inbred sin. Some call this the baptism of fire. The Holy Spirit then imparts His indwelling presence, empowering the believer. This is called the second baptism of the Holy Spirit. It happens instantaneously as the believer presents himself or herself as a living sacrifice to God with an attitude of full consecration. This, of course, is church doctrine and not my experience of life with the Holy Spirit of Jesus.

The truth to all this theological and dogmatic confusion is that only the Holy Spirit chooses when, who, and how the Born Again soul. Experiences are entirely individualistic and do not match anyone's perfect formula. Some dramatic and others very gradual. From the outside, we can listen to how the Spirit has changed them. I was blind, and now I can see" sort of thing. If they are, they will have a deep Love of God and Jesus and be a loving, kind person to hang out with. That being said, the angry racist who says they are justified in what they do (because they are (Born Again) is suffering from delusions of grandeur, brainwashed by an evil leader called the Father of all lies. This behavior is deeply offensive on all levels. It is only the simplicity of love of God and thirst for a personal relationship with God that gave birth to the Great Awakenings.

After Wesley's discouraging mission in the colonies, Wesley returned to England and, while sitting and praying in a church, desperate to find Christ amid all this dogmatics, the Holy Spirit came over him in waves of peace. Wesley then linked up with George Whitfield, who was preaching in the fields of England, and together they helped spark the Great Awakenings. Christianity stripped down to nothing but the gospel lessons, and a people, hungry and humble to accept Jesus in their lives in the fields of cruel industry, saw the Holy Spirit sweep down over the oppressed with mass conversions, transforming lives. While John Wesley needed to keep his ordination with the church of England, many of those sacramental practices and liturgy remained in the Methodist Churches, as they are today. However, it was the stripped-down poor preachers with only a horse, a Bible, and small groups of village people that thousands of conversions took place both in the Isles and the Colonies. Wesley's friend, Whitefield, traveled throughout the colonies, evangelizing the Gospel and securing more conversions. Witfield hit the cities, with crowds of up to 10,000 gathering to hear the Gospel of liberation. Keep in mind that all of these great revivals are not so much institutional pledges as pleas from the souls to accept the Holy Spirit of Jesus in their hearts. They were based on the hunger to be loved and to love..

With the Great Awakening neighbors saw men give up drinking, and people transformed from fearful, angry lives into kind and good citizens. The common people saw that the transformations were real, and they wanted a share of them. The sinner came to the conclusion, "I don't want to live like this anymore. This is hell on earth. I want Jesus in my life." With that, the Great Awakenings began to transform the British Isles and then into the American Colonies.

So let's simplify all this complex dogma. You are a child of God with spiritual DNA that links you directly to the Will of the Father who created you. So you are hard-wired to have your small will integrated with Divine Will, the Holy Spirit. It is not like you have to look anywhere for what is already birthed inside of you. Second, all you have to do is humbly turn that link on. One wants that more than any other distraction in life, craves it, and loves what God made accessible, Jesus. Third, when it comes to the point of "Yes, I want the love of Jesus in my heart," the Born Again marriage starts, but it is just the beginning. Fourth, we need to pay attention to the guidance we receive from within and without, and study the life and teaching of Jesus, which will teach us how to be and how to act. Fifth, we need to actually be Christians and love one another for sanctification to take place. As we allow God's will to work through us, He strengthens, cleans, and blesses us.

If we want the Holy Spirit to use us, we must also do some housecleaning that block love. How can love work through a body that is racist, angry, entitled, or addicted? The Holy Spirit will help us with that housecleaning, but we must allow the Lord to throw out the old toxic stuff. If we refuse to let go of our old ways, it grieves the Holy Spirit. How can He work with or through us without cleaning house? We may look like faithful Christians in church, but if

home is filled with assault rifles and our hearts with persecution of immigrants, those values are acts of rebellion and defiance to God's grace and mercy.

In my own experience, there have been a number of life-altering road-to-Damascus and transformative awakenings. And yet it is the daily small events that, after words, I become aware that those were not my words or thoughts I gave. In those moments, I am eternally grateful for the Lord's guidance. It is those short "go there," "look at him," "Start writing" that transform both me and the world around me. They always placed me in awe and gratefulness. To God goes all the glory. That goes for my books.

Remember that saying you are Born Again on some date and at some place does not make you truly Born Again. The person who "Loves one another" and has a living relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit is born again. In my walks in the church, I have noticed that the ones who live with the Spirit of God in them are way too humble to claim they are Born Again. And the ones that brag about it the most have serious hidden baggage. Pride is the opposite of humility; one can not possibly be born again without humility. Going to a wedding date and exchanging vows is the easy part. Now, maintaining a loving marriage in times of tribulation is another thing.

Explore

John 3:1-21 You Must Be Born Again
Act 2 The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost
1 Corinthians 2 Paul's Reliance upon the Spirit
John 15:26 Holy Spirit comes after crucifixion
Romans 8:26 Holy Spirit helps us pray
1 John 2:27 Holy Spirit as teacher
John 14:16-17 Holy Spirit forever with us
John 14:16-17 Fruits of the Holy Spirit
John 14:17 Spirit unseen but known

The Spirit is a Person with Feelings

Ephesians 4:30-5:1 NIV
30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,
with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander,
along with every form of malice.
32 Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 5:
1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children
2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us
as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

My personal advice is to protect your Holy relationship by not grieving our partner God.

An old saying is: "A happy wife is a happy house."

Just as when we watch the news events, such as the brutality of Selma, Alabama, ICE, protests or the Jan 6th insurrection, ICE Agents, our hearts grieve for both the people persecuted and the evil hearts of the oppressors that condemn themselves. We can not imagine a Creator who knows and sees all must also feel. Have no doubt that we are created as a person because the one who created us is a person. Like all people, we go down the wrong path, which hurts our friends, family, and the Holy Spirit of Jesus. In the Bible, Jesus cries several times when he sees the world's suffering. Our relationship with God through the Holy Spirit is deeply personal, so the Bible warns us.

Just as we can ruin a human relationship by betrayal, lying, unkindness, or just being unloving, so we can also grieve our relationship with the Holy Spirit. It is not like we need a detailed rulebook on how to behave. We are either loving or unloving in our thoughts and deeds. When we betray a friend or God, fire does not come down from the sky to blow us away, like Sodom and Gomorrah. When we grieve a relationship, sometimes something tragic happens, and the friend withdraws or betrays us in return. Love is crushed in a divorce. The Hebrews kept rebelling against their prophets, so their Creator went silent for 400 years until Jesus ascended to bring the planet back on track.

Our motivation for not grieving the Holy Spirit stems from a fear of losing protection and guidance not His vengeance. We do not grieve the Holy Spirit because we cherish His love and do not want to hurt Him. We don't want to hurt the feelings of those who care about us. Because love is the most precious and priceless thing in the universe. We can fall from that grace, and often do; we can also scramble back into the arms of our loved ones. Sometimes the fall and hurt are great, and it takes a lot to mend broken bridges. Yet it is always worth the struggle to get back in good graces.

I have lived in homeless shelters and witnessed many a brother and sister's grief when they face the fact that their addictions have destroyed spouses, children, and careers. The pain is even deeper than they know; they have grieved God as well. And yet love has a grace and patience to guide the lost souls back on track. In the Gospel Rescue Mission, people are some of the most humble and grateful souls you may ever meet. Sometimes we have to lose everything to fully grasp what a precious gift life is to begin with.

God's amazing grace can and will redeem the repentant soul. Life is much easier when we heed the Holy Spirit's warnings and do not grieve Him in the first place. And yet one can lose the Spirit-filled born-again experience only to maybe win it back, or, in total rebellion, we can lose both Him and ourselves forever.

The Meaning of Life

"Love one another"

Matthew 26:33-34
33 Peter said to Him, "Even if all fall away on account of You, I never will.
34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows,
"you will deny three times that you even know me."

What is Relationship in non-Theology

"Love one another as I have Loved you."

All of Jesus teaching come down to one statement that, "God is Love" and if we want a relationship with the one God of creation through His Son we must let the Love of God's guidance pass through our flawed selves by loving one another.
This enlightenment is available to any of us because God Loves all of us first.

John 13:34-35 ESV
34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another."

What is the Relationship?

Jesus offers us the same relationship He has with His Father God. Jesus is God made accessible to us in flesh and in the Spirit. So our quest for a relationship with Jesus is through the inner path of His Love for us. Yes, Dad still loves us when we mess up or when things get desperate. Jesus is the lesson of how we are to live as loving human beings filled with grace. Find one in whom the Spirit of God works, and they will say, "I am of the Father and the Father is in me." The relationship is not with an institution.

John 14:11 NKJV
"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me,
or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."

A relationship with Jesus is direct, intimate, and personal. Jesus separates his church from those who are literal and practice order to earn a relationship with God through dogmatics, sacraments,, and religious leaders. Jesus separates his followers from those who rely on the institutional dogma and those who thirst for a direct loving relationship with God through his son. Blinded by fundamentalist dogma, they can not see why God offers a direct relationship to the people with His Love alone. Here, Jesus foresaw that the Bread of Life would be the new testament that the world's poor would eventually be able to eat freely from. The wine of life will be Jesus Holy Spirit that will freely be offered to the people of the world who thirst to have Him in them. Objective scholars are blinded by subjective spiritual truths. This is what is meant by the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-6: a relationship that thrives and craves love for Christ. They will be the ones blessed by Christ's love. It is love that opens all doors. The Beatitude is a description of the true loving Born Again experience.

3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

5 *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

6 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

A relationship with Jesus Holy Spirit is as innocent and simple as a child. The young daughter just loves her dad. Though families are filled with their little rituals, these rituals serve as expressions and opportunities to show our love by feeding, protecting, and caring for children. Conversely, their hugs, kisses, and joyful cries of "daddy" are all the flowers of our love for one another. Jesus is the one sage who refers to God as "Father," not just because Jesus is the Son but because our God is the loving Father who created us all. No, he does not read us bedtime stories, but he does give us thousands of sunsets and sunrises. Father God does not cook pancakes for us for breakfast, but he did supply the wheat, eggs, milk, and

blueberries. As a good Father maintains the home for the children, so does the good Creator maintain an entire universe for us to thrive in. While the child will never know everything about their father. They still know one another and what their non-tangible relationship is all about.

Scholars lost in objectivism claim that God is the unseen and unknown. However, I see Him everywhere, and we know one another as both family and friends. I live in His house, and He lives in me. There is nothing unknown about it. If one believes God is unknown, it is only because they are ignorant and deny God's existence. Why in the world why would you follow a scholar who is so blind he can't see the source of his existence?

In Jesus' time, the Hebrew God existed at a distance, either in heaven or behind the temple curtain, and revealed himself only to a few prophets. Prior to the arrival of Jesus, there were 400 years of silence from a God who no longer used the prophets, whom the people did not listen to anyway. Probably because the Hebrews were so disobedient to God's warnings. Their rituals were to remove their sins by sacrificing an animal to some unseen God. The people were not even allowed in the Temple's core rooms. Jesus comes onto the scene and states that he is the son of God and that they are to take the Spirit of Jesus and place it within themselves. This is a theology where people who once reach up to an unreachable God, had to replace that belief with a God who loves them and is willing to come down and sacrifice himself for their salvation. Jesus took an unreachable heavenly God and placed Him in the people's hearts. Jesus is God made accessible.

With Jesus came something radically unthinkable. The Holy Spirit of God is within the heart of believers, without the intervention of the temple and its leadership. Sacrifice no longer involves animals in a well-established temple religious business. But the forgiveness of sins flows from God's loving relationship with the faithful. Jesus teaches that God's grace (love) saves us from our flaws/sins. It's all very personal. Dad forgives me because He loves me. Hence, the Christian became a child of God. So we need to forgive one another.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV
8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ironically the prophet Hosea states in the old testament.

Hosea 6:6 NIV
6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Jesus, as the Son of God, takes the relationship to an extreme by pointing out that we must embrace His Spirit within us. It is Jesus' humanity that makes God accessible to us. Jesus is sacrificed for us out of his love for us. This is a huge switch from sacrificing terrified cows to God. We move from a condemning, vengeful, and fearful God to one of Love. That takes a lot of power out of the hands of the Hebrew leadership.

Jesus the Bread of Life John 6:52-58

> *52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves,*
> *"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"*
> *53 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.*

The relationship with Jesus Holy Spirit has always been within you because it is in your soul's spiritual DNA to "Love one another." What is needed is to awaken and then develop your divine purpose to love one another. However, we need God's Loving Will as our guide. Grace, God's love, is an inheritance for his children. That one needs to accept through falling in love with Dad. Interesting that an inheritance letter is called a will. It is the Will of God contained within the words of the Bible that is everyone's priceless inheritance.

Thinking, contemplating, and meditating about God might be enlightening. However, if we want a relationship with the Creator of the universe, we must act. We must leave the Temple library and steps to walk the dirty paths with Jesus, to heal and teach the people. We must move from reading about the light and becoming the light. That takes a relationship.

Luke 12:31-the 33

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the Gentiles strive after all these things,
and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things will be added unto you.

So this is the simple truth. The way to seek, is to love in action, the rest will fall into place.

Is this book teaching the truth, or is it another self-help or rhetorical theological piece of shelf-ware? I will let you be the judge. But first, some tools for judging truth from lies.

There are two levels of truth. First is the physical type. Physical truths are contained in the laws of physics and math. They are considered truths because those laws of physical reality function with 100% consistency across every particle in the universe. Unlike media disinformation, the laws of gravity cannot be modified, nor can their nature change anywhere in the universe. Sure, in a black hole, it could bend, and particles could behave differently in how they react to it. The law never changes. This is also true of laws that combine other laws to work a certain way. Ohm's law of electricity, E-MC2, or Bernoulli's laws of flight all work the same way every time. Work with those laws and we are empowered to heal millions and fly to outer space. Another interesting thing about physical laws is that they have always been there. The ability to make a light bulb was here with the first caveman. Birds flew way before the Wright Brothers. We rely on all these laws to function as designed so we can warm homes, drive cars, and build skyscrapers. Physical laws are truths because they always apply to everything, forever. Humans can discover physical laws but they can not create them.

In contrast, a lie is something that conflicts with the truth. “I can drive this car as fast as I like!

Mind you, when we disobey physical laws, they can not be broken; terrible consequences can happen, cars crash, bridges and planes fall, and we can die. Ignoring physical laws has physical predestination consequences locked in time and space that we can not undo. If you drive too fast in the snow and slide into a tree, the car is not forgiving. Because they are locked in time and space we can not undo physical mistakes, repair yes, but not reverse time.

Now, as humans, we can live and build in the physical world because physical laws are locked in time and space. The world is relatively predictable and stable unless other laws/ forces intercede. But this is not true of our dreams, thoughts, emotions, values, and who we are. Let's lump that inner space as our consciousness. In our minds and hearts, we distort and reverse time in any way possible. We can reflect on our past, reliving it and even change our history. We change our values, likes, and dislikes at the drop of a hat. We can dream up plans and then build them in the physical world, subject to physical laws. In our consciousness, we get to choose what we do and do not want to bring into physical reality. We can have a terrible dream or thoughts about a spouse or boss, and come to our senses that it is not what would be smart to do. Consciousness is the land of free-will. Free to create or destroy.

Behaviorists have it wrong. Inner consciousness is not time-space-locked to physical laws, leaving room for free will to operate. Consciousness live in the world of probabilities that can shifted by free-will. Free will can witness the thought to call out the bully, or choose not to. It is the ability to have free will that makes us personally responsible for the outcome of our actions.

So here is how the two truths work together. You can think, believe, and feel what you want, with a lot of control over what you avoid. However, when it hits physical flesh, words go out of the mouth, you lose control of the consequences into physical reality. Once we step into the physical plane, physical laws kick in, and so does predestination. In the physical world, for every action there is an equal and opposite action. Think what you may about the school bully, but if you call him a jerk, you will lose control of your peace.

So if in our inner world of consciousness all physical laws are bendable, even free of the laws of time and space, how can we find the truth of what is right and wrong? We use social rules as a guide, but they differ across societies and families. This is what relativist philosophers and values-clarification educators claim. That truth is relative to the group's values. This makes more of a mess than a clear path to follow. With relativism comes the justification of greed and social chaos.

Truth is, in consciousness, there is only one guiding law that governs all its phases. That law was stated by the creator, Son of God, so he should know it is in the commandment: You must love one another." Personalities, values, emotions, thoughts, and physical action, based on loving one another, will build a reliable, trusting relationship prosperous and peaceful world. It also means that unloving/selfish personalities will have destructive values, emotions, thoughts, and actions. Love upholds the creation while unloving destroys it.

One thing to remember is that Jesus raises the bar of loving and unloving nature. For Jesus if you think it, you do it. This is the law of loving one another, and its consequences apply in the field of consciousness. Being free of time and space, physical reality does not mean we are free to be destructive inside. It also means that the loving person is blessed with peace inside.

The importance of asking the Holy Spirit to transform us from the inside out lies in the fact that He operates at those levels. Conversely, if one embraces the evil's will of addictions, violence, and retribution, that evil will also destroy us from the inside out. So, best be: 100% fully embrace the Holy Spirit to transform you to the core, how to love one another. And then use your free will to choose wisely. When evil thoughts come, the name of Jesus becomes a powerful thing. Nothing can overcome the Love of our Lord.

So truth in physical world is found in the many laws of physics and math

Truth in the inner consciousness is the one law “You must love one another.”

Now, to find the truth in humanistic social sciences, politics, and biology, we must refer to the law of inner truth: “You must love one another.” Are these policies, industries, and mental theories loving? Or are they only self-gratification and greed?

What is Love

In order to achieve an intimate walking, talking relationship with God through the Holy Spirit of Jesus, one needs to follow Jesus command, “You must love one another as I have loved you.” To do that, we need to make this command central to who we are as Christians. This presents a big challenge for many, well, all of us. Because each of us has vastly different experiences of what love is. Sure we can recite Paul’s Scripture, “Love is kind…” but is that our personal experience with love?

> While teaching a women’s Bible group at a Gospel Rescue Mission, we talked about how God’s love is like a mother's love. One of the ladies in her 40s began to cry, making the table go silent. Her roommate turned to us and said that her mother sold her into prostitution when she was only 11 years old. This is in one of the wealthiest counties in the country, Fairfield County, CT. This lesson has haunted me for years. Her experience with love was so tragically twisted. She then responded that she has learned what real love is from her sisters in the rescue mission. Pale in comparison, I shared my experience of being raised by alcoholics, and that when I became a father, I did not believe I had the skills to be a good parent. My wife told me I could be the father I always wanted to have. She was right, my own family was filled with hugs, laughter, and tears. However, to this day, I still pray for that woman and miss those many conversations, watching the Lord's gentle hand on everyone sitting at that table.

Another time with the same group, we were going to watch the movie “Were the Red Fern Grows,” a classic about a boy’s love for redbone coon hound hunting dogs. At that time, I had a redbone who looked just like the lead dog in the movie. I trained Little Annie from a killer hunting dog into a gentle companion because I had four stepsons; thankfully, that was also her disposition. While very powerful, she loved people. One lady was deathly afraid of dogs from her childhood in the hood, but was encouraged to pet Annie. Out of the 12 ladies, Annie picked this woman to jump on the couch, place her head on her lap, and fall asleep. Annie's ears were satiny soft, like a puppy's. The sister watched the movie, unconsciously stroking Annie's ears and fur. The movie’s ending made us cry for the dogs and the boy. All the women hugged Annie and blessed her for coming. Even though she did a dump on their floor, they all laughed and forgave her. When we need it, God’s love for us comes from all things great and small. Father God knew her pain, heard our prayers, and knew just how to heal her. That day, God sent Annie to heal a room.

There are two ways Love flows in the creation. First Divine Cosmic Love of the Creator (Capital “L”) is the Will to create and sustain the cosmos. Love creates. Think of God’s Will as a flow, an impersonal kind of Love to all things. When a community loves its children, it builds a park with all sorts of fun activities. As kids, you just go there to meet friends, hang out, and have fun, but you don’t think twice about who built it or why. Nonetheless, it was

built out of love with nothing more than a sign to give credit, which few ever read. The Creator's Impersonal Love is the selfless Divine Will to create, and builds the universe out of its Love to Create. The will to create is by its nature Love itself. Just as we create a park, our Creator built a planet.

Their second flow of creative love is a focused type of human love (small l). Personal love flows from one person to another, or one too many. Personal love is a focused form of universal Love and can be directed at anything. One may love the sunrise or snow in winter. One may love their first car, pet, girlfriend, or boyfriend. Personal focus love can target inanimate and living objects. Personal love is also selfless; it goes out of us to enrich the world around us.

People often get confused that wanting something is the same as loving it. Want is to take, love is to give.

Let's break this down into smaller parts. Under ideal conditions, when a man and a woman fall in love or lust and create a baby, nesting instincts kick in, and an entire lifetime of building homes, careers, thousands of meals, clothes, cars, etc., starts to come together. Much of this is the expensive daily drudgery of tasks that must be done to support the family's life. Most of the growing child takes for granted as a part of life. Nonetheless, if all that stuff were not there, they might die or be miserable. Even the parents in the genocide of Gaza search for material to make a tent, will hold the child all night close to keep them warm, or face Israeli Satanic snipers to get flour off trucks.

Not all of us have ideal upbringings. I get it. Many of us had alcoholic parents, neglect, or abuse. Some are rejected at birth and adopted. Others run away from the nightmares at home. In any case, the hard-knock lives survive and find alternative places and ways to live. There is a South African movie "Beat the drum" of how a young boy's father and mother die of AIDs and seek help in the street life of Johannesburg that he transforms with his kindness. My point here is that the impersonal flow of Love provides roads to walk down and resources around the corners. There is still air to breathe and wind on the face, the same air and wind the rich kids have. There are also hidden and not-so-hidden opportunities to dig oneself out of life's trauma. There is also the fact that something keeps you alive despite life's harsh realities. Personal love comes from the people who help us along the way.

Whether the ideal upbringing or the harsh, unfair one, their is personal love of people along the way. Personal love comes from both long-term friendships or a snippet of advice from a stranger. Some personal love lasts like the relationships bonded in family, with a teacher, a coach, or at work, or it can come from a whisper in the wind, from a stranger's advice in a Food Mart. Those acts of kindness are focused personal love that keeps us alive and guides. Personal love exists because everyone is, at some level, connected to God's universal Love.

Our relationship with our Creator depends on developing that bond of cosmic Love with holy personal love.

When we open our eyes to see and hear the flow of God's Love that supports life, it transforms within us into focused personal love that guides us on life's paths. It is impossible to fathom how such chaos can be managed, and yet such is the miracle of life. The Born Again are one hand in heaven and another on earth.

Now here is the wonder of Jesus teachings. The Son of God loves us both from the source of creation, that we may live and in a deeply focused and personal way at the same time. Keep in mind that personal love is really focused Creatorship universal Love. In it, we find our relationship with the Creator. When we show acts of kindness to either our kids or to a stranger, we focus God's Love from us onto them. This is how we bring Heaven on Earth. This is how we breathe life into tragic events.

The Department of the US AID saved millions of lives every year in troubled countries, focused on fighting starvation, disease, poverty, and trauma across the world. Until the "Father of all lies" and his devotees destroyed USAID. While good donors redirected their resources to other organizations that would serve God in saving and healing lives the destroyer condemn themselves.

Jesus commanded us to love one another as God loves and supports us. We cannot buy, command with rituals, or cry out "give me, give me'. The Creator already Loves us in both an impersonal and personal way. We are His children, and He knows our names and the issues before we pray. The way to have a relationship with the creator is to humbly allow Him to work through us. We do that through prayer and by loving the world around us. Yes, we are not the perfect Jesus; however, God's Love will flow through us. There is no perfect father, mother, or coach to help our youth. God knows that, and yet His mercy, grace, and love for us will use the flawed anyway, IF WE LET HIM. You want a relationship? Then serve His world, and the Spirit will put wind in your sails. The world needs you.

The Lord is having me write this to help and encourage you to develop your relationship with your Father God through the Spirit of Jesus that makes God accessible to us. I urge you to find and join forces with others on this path.

Humility

Ephesians 4:2
"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

Without humility to change us, there can be no relationship. Only the humble at heart can hear with their ears.

Arrogance is the mask of the cowards. Arrogance also is the power grab that seeks the submission of others perceived as weaker than themselves. When we blend institutional power levels with theology, the concept of servant devolves into subservience, all the while learning designed to liberate turns into a cultural compliance and social conditioning.

Without humility to share, learn, grow, and love together, there can be no relationship. When a couple stops listening to one another or feels the other is of no value, the relationship dies. Criticism kills love. For there to be a relationship, both must enrich one another in the partnership. The Creator God is a person, and when we participate in His plans, we will enrich His experience as well as He enriches ours. This can not happen without humility. Please, the pious mask of a proud soul is nothing more than the mask of a blind, arrogant coward.

In stark contrast, the humble student who wants the Holy Spirit to show them what to know and what to do has a different experience from reading PDFs in an online classroom.

> This is a testimony from a hospice Chaplin told many years ago. He had just graduated from an Ivy League seminary school and felt fairly lost. He somehow landed a mission with Mother Teresa in Calcutta. Filled with a thousand questions and feeling he was out of his league, and certainly his comfort zone, he meets a very busy Mother Teresa deep in the slum. Not knowing what to say, she looks at him. "What do you need me to do?" he says. "Go into the slum and find someone dying and bring them here." One can only imagine his heartbreak, and every piece of theology and dogmatics he ever learned did not tell him what todo in picking up a fragile old man at life's end. Suddenly, the preciousness of life became so vivid that everything he possessed was there to serve this broken soul. Later to serve a broken world. When the precious nature of innocent life is fully exposed to the open heart, the unseen can be seen, and the unknown is known. It makes perfect sense that he later chose to serve as Hospice Chaplain for frightened and lonely, the dying, rather than to serve in a big stone church.

> In The Little Prince, the boy's heart is breaking because he will miss his friend, the Fox. It is then the fox whispers to the boy, “And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.”
> - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince.

The opposite of intellectual arrogance is Humility. The opposite of greed is gratefulness. Humility comes from a love to learn, and gratefulness comes from a love for all that is given to us. Jesus commands us to love one another because only with an open, loving heart can we see the truth that sets us free from the world's selfish addictions.

> “The truth is this: Pride must die in you or nothing of heaven can live in you. Under the banner of the truth, give yourself up to the meek and humble spirit of the holy Jesus. Humility must sow the seed or there can be no reaping in heaven. Look not at pride only as an unbecoming temper, nor at humility only as a decent virtue: for the one is death and the other is life; the one is hell and the other is heaven. So much as you have of pride within you, you have of the fallen angel alive in you; so much as you have of true humility, so much you have of the Lamb of God within you.”
> ― Andrew Murray, Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness

Jesus' relationship with God the creator is different from that of the Old Testament prophets or any other religious leaders, such as Shankaracharya, Buddha, or Mohamed. The Creator, to Jesus is his Father, and His Father will pour through Jesus heart while he taught on the planet and later through the Holy Spirit, leading His disciples as they spread the Gospel throughout the world. For those of us who fully embrace the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit of Jesus in our hearts today, we are gifted with the same experience of God as our intimate Father, whose Spirit guides us while at the same time maintaining our free will. Humility opens our inner door to listen, learn, and be transformed. There is nothing mystical or complex about it. Humility is the simple “Yes, Lord. How can I help.” With humility, the small, limited soul opens up to the resources of cosmic intelligence and divine will, something no library can provide. While humility empowers us to receive blessings, we know it is for the purpose of sharing them with others. We are not humble to get, we are humble to give. Loving one another is how that all takes place.

The meaning behind the Lord’s Prayer is not about a detached God coming down one day to clean up this mess. The purpose of the Lord’s Prayer is to open our hearts to letting the Holy Spirit work through us to bring heaven on earth. The Lord’s Prayer is a “Here I am, use me.” Pray. “Oh, and Father, I could use your Guidance and protection while working for you.”

Without humility to let the Holy Spirit in, we are locked in our own iron cage of rationalizations and excuses on why the world is so cruel, and we can do nothing about it.

Without a humble heart, the eyes will remain blind and ears deaf to truth. Without humility, the truth in life stays beyond our reach.

More:

Read: “Humility” by Andrew Murray. Available on Amazon or free PDF Downloads

Search: “Bible Humility” Read and compare scriptures and avoid commentaries.

Gratefulness

Colossians 3:15
"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Gratefulness is the hand that keeps the door of humility open.

Selfishness is the opposite of gratefulness. When our core is grateful, we enjoy life. Even simple rewards become blessings, and even a sunrises and snowflakes are a gift from God. Long ago, I had a girlfriend who, whenever we would go out, would send the meal back to the kitchen for some reason. It made me wonder whether any of the meals I cooked for her were adequate in her eyes and whether I am a good cook.

A selfish person is both blind and deaf to the beauty and truths of life. In contrast, the grateful heart soaks in all the blessings of the Creator's creation. Even the tiny things get noticed and enjoyed. It is impossible for the selfish or angry person to be born again with the Holy Spirit in a relationship because they refuse to see what they should see and refuse to listen to any guidance outside of their own ideas. In order to have an ongoing relationship with the Creator through Jesus Holy Spirit, one must have more than just eyes and ears wide open; they must embrace the help and guidance of their Father God. It is gratefulness for the Spirit's guidance that keeps the doors of transformation (sanctification) open. Here is the key point: it is gratefulness that empowers us to see how the God of Love loves us. All thoughts, gifts in life, including life itself, are acts of Divine Love. In gratefulness, we both recognize life's gifts and say thanks at the same time. When someone does something nice for us, and we say “thanks” or “bless you,” we recognize both who they are and that the deed was good. When we give thanks, we recognize both the doer and the deed as an act of loving kindness. What we are doing is loving that person back.

It is a gratefulness for a loving relationship. Bowing to authority is not praise; it is slavery. Praise is like blowing the coals to start a fire. Bowing to authority is pouring water on coals to be stomped out.

In no place in the Bible does Jesus have his followers bow down to him. Jesus asks for grace and love. In His last supper, He did not have to have the Apostles bow to him. In contrast, he washes their feet and shares dinner with them. When we love someone, we do things because we care about them, not because we have to or are forced to. Bowing down when kings came into town was an act of oppressive authority.

When Jesus came into Jerusalem, He was met with praise and cheers. Praise is a proclamation of love and appreciation. The Gospel is about how we love Jesus for who He is and what He has done. Praise is honoring our relationship with the Son of God, who brings

us life and saves us from our follies. Praise is rejoicing in His teaching that He is doing in our lives. In this way, praise is an act of humility in accepting His loving guidance.

Sometimes our lives spin out of control into very dark hours. Usually from our own folly. At this time, we do drop onto our knees, throwing ourselves at God's feet in repentance. We cry out that we have fallen short and need the help of an all-powerful God to help us out of his pit. Yes, repentance is a form of groveling; however, it is not cowardliness. True repentance is out of our trust for a loving God to forgive and save us. Praise of our Creator and loving friend is woven into the entire process. Like a child who has just fallen from their bike, they cry out for the loving parent. Woven into the cry is the trust that someone will come to the rescue.

Praise comes from rejoicing or crying out to our Loving Father God, no matter what format it takes. Whether bathing in prosperity or desperation, grateful praise is always music to a loving Father.

More

Search: “Bible about gratefulness” Read and compare scriptures and avoid commentaries.

Read/Listen: “He’s been faithful” Carol Cymbala

Ears that Hear

Mark 4:3-9

The Parable of the Sower Explained

3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.
4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.
5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly,
because the soil was shallow.
6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered
because they had no root.
7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants,
so that they did not bear grain.
8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop,
some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."
9Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

It is not about what we see or hear, it is about how and why we see and hear. Like misinformation news stations, if we only look at what happened and not ask truthfully why it happened, the tragedies of history will repeat themselves, unless we ask why?

The soul interprets what it sees based on our experiences and beliefs. Most often, it is our beliefs that blind us. It is only the heart that sees the truth that is love. Only the heart can see the unseen. The same goes for listening; we zone out what we do not want to hear. Listen to what we desire . Conversely, the mind and the soul rebel against the truth. Hence, free will empowers one to refuse to take in negative and Evil things.

In the heart, the soul's will to live and create operates. The will to create is Divine Love. And God is Love. Therefore, right seeing and hearing are with the intention of building a better, more loving Holy world.

When you see, do you see only things, or do you see what connects them together? Do you ask why those things exist? Do you see that everything has a purpose? The purpose of all things is to support life. The purpose is to love all of you in providing life itself. Everything before you is a gift. A gift from a creator. That loves you.

When driving a car, we are surrounded by hundreds of radio stations, satellite broadcasting, and libraries of digital files. We may choose to listen to objective, conservative, or political stations. We may choose music that is violent, foul, or peaceful, joyful, and spiritual. Basically, we select whatever reinforces who we are and reject anything that conflicts with it.

When Jesus talks about "ears that hear," He is talking about our ability to listen to what will transform us to live a Holy, loving life. To change, we need to be humble enough to listen to

advice that contradicts who we are and how we behave. Sometimes, when we hear the truth of what we have said and done, we need to apologize and make amends. To develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit, we need to let down our defenses, admit when we are wrong, and change our ways. That humility can be painful, however, it becomes easier over time as our level of trust in the guidance of the Holly Spirit grows. Why? Because in time we learn that the Spirit of Jesus is not only always right but also can see what we cannot. It is through humble listening that our relationship with the Holy Spirit grows in time.

Listening to the guidance and friendship of the Holy Spirit takes various forms. Night dreams, day dreams, an inner voice, and often from an outside stranger's advice. Many times, a stranger offered me divine advice out of the blue. Something I needed there and then. Perhaps a quick prayer for help lifting my motorcycle, and just then someone shows up to help, or a discussion on the state of Christianity evolves. Life with the Holy Spirit is a constant, eyes-and-ears-wide-open experience. One never knows what is next, but must always be open and prepared for the Lord's work. Like all relationships, to build one must show oneself to be available and reliable. It is a two-way street. We are there to help God love the world, and He is there for us when we are in need. When we cry out for help in a crisis and help others, it's when it all comes together.

> One time, when I was working the bakery pastry counter, an old, tatty man walked in, looking at the expensive pastries, knowing he had no money for them. Usually, there was a busy counter at the front of the store; this time, there was no one around us. As I turned away to complete something, I heard Father say in me, "Talked with him." We talked for about 20 minutes. He was a lonely vet; his wife died long ago. During that chat, nobody came to the counter. The Holy Spirit cleared the field, and I could feel his presence. This is not the time to preach the gospel. It was a time of caring. After some time, he went silent and looked up. "Nobody has talked to me in two years. Thanks." It broke my heart to hear that. We both were in tears. "Well, I care, and know Jesus does too." I offered him a free pastry, which he turned down. We both smiled, and he walked away. This type of event happens frequently to all who have a relationship with Jesus. Many a jailor and prisoner have discovered the Spirit of Jesus that way.

The way we love one another is to have a humble heart, seeing and listening for opportunities to heal the world, just as Jesus did when he walked the cities and fields of Jerusalem. Preaching the gospel is important; however, if we do not live the same way Jesus lived, in loving the world, how will a broken world believe Jesus if we are not a witness to Him? When we allow Christ to work through us in such moments, his presence on the wounded heart is palpable. It is God's divine Love that makes us sincere and selfless. Loving help opens the wounded soul's heart and gives them faith in a world that has been so cruel.

Jesus repeatedly proclaims that he does only the works His Father God asks him to do. We are to joyfully do the same. This is how we rejoice in life: blessed to serve people with our God. When we then read the Bible, we witness it in the light of how Jesus Holy Spirit joined Him in His earthly mission to heal a broken world. It is also true that in healing others, our own flaws and brokenness are revealed and transformed. Often, the teacher gains more than the student.

With a humble heart, we gain ears that hear. With that, our minds are filled with thoughts and dialogue from the Holy Spirit. This friendship is like an internal co-pilot. We have free will to ignore His advice, which many do. Just don't take the friendship for granted or one can lose the relationship; divorces happen. However, if we work in tandem with the Will of God, the relationship grows in time. We learn to always follow the Holy Spirit's advice because He is never wrong. My will is highly flawed. We learn because our own will is filled with life's distortions that trip us into many potholes. To nourish this friendship, one must trust the friendship. Paul speaks of this:

> *1 Corinthians 2:10-16 NIV*
> *10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.*
> *The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. 15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16 for,*
>
> *"Who has known the mind of the Lord*
> *so as to instruct him?"*
> *But we have the mind of Christ.*

More

Search: "Bible Eyes that see ears that hear" Read and compare scriptures and avoid commentaries.

Eyes that See

There are many books on how we see, from both physical and psychological perspectives. This will be simplistic, but good enough to understand what Jesus means by the eye that sees and the ears that hear.

There are several rules of thought about seeing. One is that it is our way of taking things in. The other is that sight, along with the other senses, is a way of filtering things out. Without the five senses being filtered, we would quickly be overwhelmed by the input. Our ability to focus and stay on task requires our ability to filter out what is unnecessary. The catch is that, depending on our core values and intentions, we can zoom in on the wrong things while ignoring the right ones. If our core values are creative and loving one another, we focus on the things that will aid our creative process. On the other hand, if we are selfish and addicted, we will follow the bar sign with the family paycheck.

A greedy investor will see a sunset before an open field and see an investment opportunity. On the other hand, a soul with the love of God in their heart might stop to soak in the sun's warmth and give praise for the beautiful world. From a body's perspective, both are seeing the same thing, yet they interpret it in opposite ways. One to possess the other in gratefulness. It is greed that blinds and cheats the soul of life's beauty. To the greedy, if it can't be acquired, it is irrelevant. To the Spirit-filled, they are already a part of everything. In the way the Beatitude is correct. "Blessed are the poor for they will inherent the earth." When the poor in Spirit sits on the beach, the entire ocean is theirs. Note: that by poor we mean hungry, hungry for God's love, something we can never get enough of, yet whatever we receive is a blessing.

While sanctification is taking place, the Holy Spirit guides our souls to use the five senses to seek out creative, loving things while filtering out destructive and evil ones. While using technology, the Spirit-filled will choose stimuli that will help and heal oneself and the world. In contrast, the narcissist will seek out media that solve problems by killing and blowing things up. Our choices direct the five senses too positive or negative experiences. With those filters in place, the media opens us up to reinforce those positive or negative values. This way, the management of what we see or hear creates either new opportunities for growth or enslaves us in cognitive bubbles of self-destruction.

Matthew 13:14-17 Jesus explaining eyes that see and ears that hear.

> *14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:*
> *"You will indeed hear but never understand,*
> *and you will indeed see but never perceive."*
> *15 For this people's heart has grown dull,*

and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.'
16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.
17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

More

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Daily Relationship

Philippians 4:4-5
4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
5 Let your gentleness be apparent to all. The Lord is near.
6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

It is this daily process of seeing and hearing, guided by the Holy Spirit, that transforms and sanctifies us. Each time we respond and act on the Will of God through the Spirit of Jesus, our relationship with our God is strengthened. It is a dance of mutual trust. We trust the Spirit to guide us, and the Spirit calls on us when He has faith we will act. All relationships are two-way streets that will either strengthen or weaken over time. For this reason, we wake with the day, “Lord, what do you want me to see, hear, and do today?” And we pray before sleep, “Lord, as I sleep, please teach me what I need to know?

Living with the Holy Spirit is a loving relationship; however, it is not easy. It is filled with questions, tragedies, and special moments. One thing is promised, it's not a boring way to live. While many spend their final days on earth, drowning in regrets of things they never did. The ones filled with the Spirit of Christ wish they could have done more had the world only listened. That’s OK because the Holy Spirit of Jesus feels the same way.

More

Search: John 15:15

The Blessing of Relationship

The Beatitudes Matthew 5:
Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount, and he began to teach them.
1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside
and sat down. His disciples came to him,
2 He said:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Beatitudes are not rules or practices to be done to earn the blessing of God. Father God already loves us and always has the blessing in the Beatitudes waiting for us. When people fake humility or piety, it's disgusting. When we embrace the Divine Love and presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, these Beatitudes become a part of our life's experience. Jesus is saying this is what life will be like with Him in your heart.

When we see all of life, and our life itself, as a gift of the creator, our eyes begin to open to the reality that all of life before us is divine. In this way, we "inherit the earth." When we read them, it should stir our souls to recognize all the gifts and blessings life has to offer. The humbling fact is we can never give back all that God blesses us with. Fortunately, Jesus is not a student loan. All the Holy Spirit asks is that we love him. God's Love is not an authoritarian command, though He could demand it of us. Jesus and the prophets simply ask that we love him the best we can. God's love is a matter of free will. Only through free will can our love be sincere, pure, and real.

The Beatitudes are not deals to be made with God. "Ok God I was merciful today. What is my reward." When we love the world and automatically act mercifully, we witness how this sets people free from their follies. Witnessing the setting of a soul free is an act of love that makes the heart rejoice. This is reward (blessing) enough.

To be poor is to be in need, to be hungry. To not have enough. In a relationship with the Holy Spirit, we crave His constant love and guidance. We pray for Heaven on Earth and the constant guidance and protection. Love is infinite, and we can never have enough or give enough. We are beggars of God's Love. He always hears our voice and is waiting to bring heaven on earth.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

When we love the world, we care about it. Need is not only about money. People need to be loved and to love. It grieves us to see the world suffer. This hurts; however, the eternal Love

of the Holy Spirit comforts us and provides the wisdom and resources to make the world a better place.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Meek is not weak. Meek is strong enough yet humble enough to learn, willing to see, and has ears willing to learn. With an open heart and mind, the soul witnesses all the earth as a gift from our Father God. Life is our inheritance, and all of life's changing seasons, earth, and all its creatures are our inheritance. The entire human family is our inheritance. The eternity of God's Love is our inheritance. Spiritual meekness has the courage to change what is false in us into being the light. This takes facing our darkest demons and chasing them out. Nothing weak about that. With meekness comes the blessings of life.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

We cry out and crave the blessings and presence of the Holy Spirit, and like any good Father, he responds to the calling. The soul who truly loves the Holy Spirit is filled by the Holy Spirit. What good father does not respond to the cries of His children? I hunger to sit at the table with Jesus to drink His wine and eat His bread.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

When those filled with the Holy Spirit show mercy, the mercy of the Holy Spirit flows through them. When the Lord wants to forgive, He will forgive through the vessel of the born-again Christian. The priest can forgive on the human level, which certainly has its value. But it is through the Holy Spirit that true forgiveness comes. As the Rescue Mission sign says, "Jesus Saves." Those who embrace the criminal and the homeless are powerful servants of Jesus who, in their daily work, witness the Spirit of Jesus forgive sinners of the past and set them free for a new future.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

When we truly love the Creator with all our hearts, we witness the Creator's Will in everything. In this way, we do feel and see God in everything. Love is the only thing in creation that is totally pure.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

The will of God. It is to create harmony so the human race and planet Earth will travel through the ages. When we unite our tiny wills with the loving divine Will, we automatically seek peace with our neighbors. To love our neighbors is to help them find peace as they work and live together. Those with the Holy Spirit in their heart are slaves to keeping the peace.

Their very presence shines a light of peace on any occasion. Often, just walking into a room changes the atmosphere to one of calmer, holier behavior.

More

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Jesus is Truth?

John 18:35-38
35 Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed You over to me.
What have You done?”
36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world; if it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is not of this realm.”
37 “Then You are a king!” Pilate said.“You say that I am a king,” Jesus answered.
“For this reason I was born and have come into the world, to testify to the truth.
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice.”
38 “What is truth?” Pilate asked

The irony of this event was that the truth was standing right in front of Pilot: Jesus is the truth. However, he could not see it. He could not hear it. Or maybe he did. Some believe Pilot died a Christian.

What is messed up about the world is also a mess in us. To see the truth, some housekeeping is needed. As Yoda teaches. “There is much to unlearn, there is.”

The world of institutions, religions, and social values all blind us to the truth. When the all-powerful and well-educated Pontus Pilate was face-to-face with the Son of God, he mocked him with What is truth? When the truth is standing right in front of him. This is the way objectivism and entitlement blind us to the truth of God’s creative divine love.

In the material world, truth is found in the unchanging and omnipresent laws of physics and math. In the world of consciousness, the only real truth that can be found is in love. The rest is a dream before it takes shape in physical reality, or simply an illusion. Consciousness is the land were choices are made.

The supreme non-relative truth is. The meaning of life is to “love one another.” If we refuse to love one another out of our selfishness, then we will never know the truth of life. For those who rebel, life becomes a transitory lie.

More

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Dear Friend

John 15;15
15 "I no longer call you servants,
because a servant does not know his master's business.
Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father
I have made known to you."

Building our relationship with the Holy Spirit of Jesus takes time, patience, knowledge, and a bit of common sense that all get woven together and stronger over time. The will of evil is always there to deceive us. We may feel like picking up every homeless person and taking them home to feed, clothe, and shelter them, but that would be an unwise and dangerous thing to do. Gospel Rescue Missions do this; however, it requires teams of experienced personnels and a fair amount of security. Best to start small. One might notice someone is missing at work or church and give them a call. Sometimes, the tiniest piece of advice to a stranger can change the trajectory of their life.

Sometimes I have debated with the Holy Spirit about a request. Hey, Moses had the same issue.
I always lose.

> Years ago, I had three hours to kill between flights at the Denver Airport. Dragging my luggage, I look at a nice, crowded sports bar, and The Spirit says. "Go in." Now I'm thinking the request to go drinking will get me into trouble; it's perhaps the wrong voice. Then I hear his insistence, "Go in." I know His voice and go. There are only two seats at the bar, so I hop up, order a beer, and open my laptop to work on my Kenya photo book. Immediately, a successful-looking exec sits next to me, complaining that his flight was delayed as well. After a while, he asked me about the book and told him that I have 25 years of experience in high-end branding and turnarounds, only to give it up to do mission work to be closer to my kids after the divorce. We talked for quite a while about women, our kids, and my divorce. Mostly about how I came back to the kids and how I felt divorce was child abuse. It takes a long time and a lot of hard work to mend their hearts. He grew silent for a while, got up, and placed his tickets on the bar. With tears, he looked at me. "Only God who still loves me would bring you into this bar." Sliding the tickets to me, "I was going to have an affair with someone on my staff. Call my wife and tell her I want a divorce. I'm going home to watch my kids sleeping." "Your right, that kind of love is the only thing that really does matter." He put his hand on my shoulder and left. Just in time for me to catch my plane.

The process of starting a relationship may seem daunting, but that is the delusion. Once you decide to jump off the dock into the lake you come up wet.

Mathew 7:24-25 NIV

The Wise and Foolish Builders

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

"And castles made of sand slips into the sea, eventually"
- Jimmy Hendrix "Castles Made Of Sand"

More

Search: "Bible Jesus as friend" Read and compare scriptures and avoid commentaries.

The Way of the Heart

John 14:1-4 ESV
"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

A dark heart leads us down dark and negative paths. But the heart filled with light will seek out others who love one another. It is as if the heart is the skipper of our boat,, and the Holy Spirit is the navigator guiding us into safe havens and through storms. The loving heart does loving deeds, and the unloving heart creates suffering. It is a simple fact of life.

It is in the nature of how we love with our hearts that we share both our life experiences and what we learn from them. It is an output input thing. Even when we stumble into injustice or painful experiences. Will they close and harden our hearts in vengeance, or will we shine forth and change our outcome entirely? After the horror of WWII with Japan McAuthor asked for 50,000 missionaries to come rebuild Japan. Because of the racist hearts of American churches, only 5,000 showed up. So we see 5,000 with the loving will of Father God in their hearts and 45,000 who denied the will of God, whom Jesus will tell, "I d not know you."

Our small will can allow God's big will to move through our hearts. It is in this space that we freely choose our destiny. The Greeks used a chariot pulled by five wild horses to illustrate our mind's relationship with the five senses. Yes, they are there to get us where we want to go; however, they need our direction, or destruction is before us.

So, develop a big lens with a big heart.

God is big, so we need a big lens. I love the expression "keep your eyes wide open." The Holy Spirit sees what we can not see and knows what we do not know. That being the case, keeping our eyes wide open for opportunities to spread the Gospel to "Love one another" is a daily activity. This doesn't necessarily mean handing out tracks at the grocery store. Often, it is just being a kind, loving heart for a stranger, or being steadfast in what is right for work. The youth with the heart of Jesus will see and hear the bully on the playground and come to the rescue of the hurting child. With the Holy Spirit in us, we are blessed in seeing what is right, and we are also asked to act against that which is. wrong.

More
Read: All of 1 John This is the one short Bible letter that is all about Love.
It is the core of the Relationship of non-Theology.

Take off the Blinders

John 9”35-41 NKJ After Jesus heals the blind man.

True Vision and True Blindness

35 Jesus heard that they (Temple leaders) had cast him out;
and when He had found him, He said to him,
“Do you believe in the Son of God?”
36 He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”
37 And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.”
38 Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.
39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.”
40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him,
“Are we blind also?”
41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say,
‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.

Theology of Oppression

Exodos 23:9 NIV
9 "Do not oppress a foreigner;
you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners,
because you were foreigners in Egypt.

Theology and dogmatics tend to reduce Christianity into contracts and insurance policies in weekly services rather than to a way of life. The way of the Holy Spirit is not obedient to church service times and places. mumbling hymnal song and the timing of church sect's set agenda. I have watched so many sermons with the congregation looking at their watches/cell phones to get to the coffee while it is still warm. Again, this contrasts with the chaos of fellowship hour, when love is spread all around. That fellowship of love is the true invitation to the table of Christ, if it is done in his Name.

> One Tuesday night at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, the church started singing. We went from one praise song after another, and the presence of God was so powerful. I remember that night well. It was like heaven's angels were our audience. After two full hours of straight praise, most of it standing. Pastor Cymbala got up and said, "It's time to go." At 9 PM in Brooklyn, we had trains to catch and cars to get out of the garages before they closed. There was such joy in the air. An aide ran up to the stage to remind Cymbala that they had forgotten the offering. He laughed and said, "After that, I am sure God will take care of us." The lesson is to let God run the service on His schedule.

Here is the secret. Love is based on free will. One cannot make another Love you. A church leader cannot make the Holy Spirit love you through some dogmatic ritual. It is really absurd because God already loves you. Because God is Love. It is up to us to open our hearts to Jesus Divine Love so it can flow through us. It's one hand in heaven and another on earth.

One person goes to Holy Communion to be freed from the sins and repents out of fear of God before taking the bread and the wine. While another loves all that Jesus is and has done for us. This person is honored and rejoices in the opportunity to be invited to the table with their Savior and share their love in "remembering" him. To those reading the scripture, it is taking the bread of life into them. To them, the river of life permeates their body with his wine. For the one with a relationship with the Holy Spirit, the last supper is the eternal supper when we walk into the upper room with a big smile and say, "I'm here, Lord, Your humble servant." Every meal is a time to be grateful for all His gifts. That every meal, anywhere you go, always give thanks.

The priest or pastor should never offer the sacrament with an attitude of power or exclusivity over the people. There is no authority in offering sacrament behind brass cups of white robes. We are all humble servants, capable of offering and inviting others to share in the bread and wine of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and teachings.

Acts 20:28-30 NIV
Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.
Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

If your conclusion here is that ICE agents, and their leaders, condemn themselves…
You are right.

Statue of Liberty Base has the quote from Emma Lazarus' poem "The New Colossus"

'Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!'"

Jesus designed the Last Supper for the devoted, the innocents, the uneducated, and for those who hunger and thirst for the Love of God. So you are worthy, more than worthy.

Luke 14:15-24

The Parable of the Great Banquet

15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”
16 Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’
18 “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’
19 “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’
20 “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’
21 “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’
22 “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’
23 “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.
24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

More

The most oppressed group of the Hebrews were the Samaritan’s, along with women in general. Read the three passages about the Samaritans. How the Apostles reacted and how Jesus treated them. Racism is a terrible sin.

John 4:4-42 Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

Luke 10:25-37 The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Acts 8:14-17 Peter and John convert Samaritans

The Myth of Academia

Beware you be not swallowed up in books!
An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge.
- John Wesley

Pure objectivism and relativism in education result in the lobotomy of love from the soul.

The Ivy League elitist culture is often infused with Herbert Spencer's "survival of the fittest" spiritual lobotomy. Hence, a billionaire at the expense of the people, and Epstein's culture goes on unchecked.

What is truly remarkable about the common person reading the Bible, away from academic filtering, is that the reader zooms in on the non-tangible, why Jesus did what he did and said what he said. How many lost souls ready to take their life in a cheap hotel simply open Gideons Bible up to an unknown page to be saved from evil's grasp and deaths door. None of that is objective, and yet all of that is common experience. There is nothing more subjective than a love between a parent and child, yet nothing more meaningful.

The meaning of life is to love one another, and there is nothing more subjective than that. What that love does is measurable in the physical world; however, the will to make and modify the physical is purely subjective and unmeasurable. While some parents are great and others are terrible at raising their children, one cannot measure the degree of love that takes place in these lives or how it gets twisted in a cruel world.

Academics mocking a punishment of faculty with the courage to talk about Jesus in the classroom are simply in denial and ignorant of the very Father God who created and supports their life. They are like a belligerent child who yells at his parents, "You are not my mother, You are not my father." Such scholars are to be prayed for.

Remember, it is evil will's intent to block the child of God from loving the Father God. While objectivism is critically important to the physical sciences, medicine, and engineering, it is grounded in natural laws. Pure objectivism in spiritual and character development can be the lobotomy of the soul from eternal love and heaven. Qualitative and quantitative analyses need one another. Quantitative analysis will build a jet engine with objective laws. Qualitative analysis asks, "Are you really going to bomb trapped women and children in Gaza with this U.S. made F35?"

The Gaza Strip is an Arab ghetto of the most densely populated areas of the world. It is complemented by four large Israeli concentration camps, complete with no judicial system, torture, rape, and starvation. And with all that, practically none of the Ivy League history, sociology, medical, or seminary schools stood up and spoke out in protest. This is because

the culture of relativism and alumni funding empowers them to be cowards. It is evidence, they do not really know what they are teaching. Graduates should justify refunds for such a substandard education by such certified fools.

James 1:5
"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God,
who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

While the great American education philosopher John Dewey pointed out that learning is "Experiential," meaning the blend of emotions, senses, and intellect blended into a cognitive, even spiritual, experience. Academia is, for the most part, a strictly intellectually graded experience. Academia, like all institutions, is a hierarchical structure of power. Seminary school is no exception. One will certainly be more financially secure by graduating from Princeton or Yale Divinity School than by being ordained as a poor pastor in the Rift Valley of Kenya. And yet the only thing that elevates the level of "Divinity" of the pastor is in the service of love to their people.

Don't educate and test a child about the structure of a peach. Let them taste it.

It is more divine to protect the orphans from tribal war's gunfire than to rig security cameras to protect the US church grounds. Divinity is found in life and not in human material assets. It is more divine to convert the gun owners and children to love one another than to make more laws that they will only break. We sadly know that a lock on a gun does not stop the youth with an angry heart.

Academia in the seminary are both a slaves and a victims of what is called preconceived prejudice. In order to acquire an expensive MDIV or P.h.D, one must agree with the department's head's principles and papers, which dusty historical academics have agreed on are true, hence preconceived prejudice. It is called prejudice because that academic categorically rejects any opposing ideas, even if they are the truth. The ancient Roman scholars once believed the world was flat and that the universe revolved around us, geocentrissm. Behaviorists reject the ideas of humanists. Relativeness folks reject everything but themselves by accepting everything. Academic research then becomes more of an effort to filter and cite authorities rather than truly doing the Will of God or truthful research. As a case in point, when writing a paper, the student must be careful to cite the sources of the information. If the Holy Spirit speaks to them in prayer or dreams on the interpretation of Scripture, they cannot cite that in the paper. Go figure? How could God not be a source of truth? I have personally sat in a seminary class, listening to a Biblical scholar pontificate on a scripture, and heard the Holy Spirit, indignantly, say, "That is totally wrong." Then, on the way to lunch, have the whole parable witness to me in its clarity.

Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

In contrast, a kind student working in the seminary cafeteria has their eyes directed to a student alone at a table. Hearing a simple "Go." She sits in front of the student. And says, "You OK?" The suffering student looks at her like God sent an angel just in time. The pain of loneliness and a betraying boyfriend gushes out to loving ears and an open heart. It is this simple cafeteria worker who saves the suffering from taking her life. Those with true divinity are the ones who serve by doing loving works for Jesus. They are the ones with dirty sandals working the streets with Jesus. The ones who love one another.

I tell you the truth, you will find more divinity in back rooms and servers than with the ones being served.

If you want a relationship with Jesus, make yourself available. The Holy Spirit seeks those out.

Proverbs 14:12 ESV

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

James 1:22

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

More

Search: "Bible Pride" Read and compare scriptures and avoid commentaries.

The Problem with Theologians

The Power Grab. The Nicene Creed.

"The oppressed, having internalized the image of the oppressor and adopted his guidelines, are fearful of freedom." ― Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

There is an abyss of space between the experience of I believe there's a Christ who went to heaven. And, "I am in the Father and the Father. is in me." There is a gap between the hope of meeting Jesus after death, if I did enough right things, and the day-to-day experience of walking with the presence of the Holy Spirit in one's heart. There is a difference in studying the "unseen" and "unknown" and being the conduit of the Holy Spirit's divine grace. It's the difference between searching to understand and I am. It's the difference between being a Christian and something else. When one reads a scholar's works, one can tell if they have that relationship with Holiness or only study it.

Academic theology and its close relative institutional dogmatics can and often do serve as a barrier to innocent relationships between seekers and their Maker. What is marketed as a bridge to God's blessing can become a series of off-ramps, with tolls, to a path that should only require that we love one another in policies, deeds, and social pressure. The mother recycling her kids' clothes at the homeless shelter is often more blessed than the most highly-degreed Bishop and certainly than the politicians and billionaires seeking the blessing at the national prayer day banquet.

Keep in mind that all academic institutions are a business. And all businesses are about marketing and defending profits. In contrast, the small prayer group is free.

More on this later.

> "The more radical the person is, the more fully he or she enters into reality so that, knowing it better, he or she can transform it. This individual is not afraid to confront, to listen, to see the world unveiled. This person is not afraid to meet the people or to enter into a dialogue with them. This person does not consider himself or herself the proprietor of history or of all people, or the liberator of the oppressed; but he or she does commit himself or herself, within history, to fight at their side." ― Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed.

Galatians Read: There is some debate on who wrote all of Paul the Apostle's letters in the Bible. They are consistent in trying to keep the teachings of Jesus pure while warning how the churches were going astray. Just like today, outsiders seeking fame, power, and money were adding their own flavor of nonsense to the gospel.

The Pauline epistles are the thirteen New Testament books attributed to Paul the Apostle. Key are: Romans, 1–2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. My favorite is Galatians.

Doubt

John 6:60-71 NIV
Many Disciples Desert Jesus

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”
61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend
you? 62 Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! 63 The Spirit
gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the
Spirit and life. 64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from
the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. 65 He went on to
say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”
66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

67 “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.
68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal
life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The authoritarian quest for power does not like anyone to doubt, or challenge, their authority, even if it is the truth. And yet Jesus engages in people's questions throughout his ministry. Nicodemus challenges Him about being born again. The Samaritan woman challenges Jesus about worship. When Jesus was in the temple teaching many in the crowds, the leaders doubted him. However, there were also those in the crowd who believed in him. There were also many who once doubted him, and then converted when they heard him. At one point, Jesus accused the leadership of not believing the scriptures, because if they did, they would believe in Jesus. Because he is in the scriptures. Jesus taught in the temples and field for those who would listen.

When doubt is based on a humble fertile ground to accept the truth, transformation can take place. However When doubt is a defense mechanism to defend what is wrong, it embraces the sin of an unloving path. Thomas’s doubt were based on a lack of understanding. However, because of his faith, he would ask questions. His faith kept the doors open for the truth. Yes, he says, I will not believe until I see Jesus raised from the dead. When he does see Jesus, he immediately says, “I believe Lord.” Thomas’s love for Jesus with his humility leaves the door open that he might be wrong. Sometimes to to doubt only means we do not have the answers and we challenge what is before us, and that is OK.

Thomas is there, along with the other debates with Jesus, to demonstrate the nature of patience in God’s Love for us. In Jesus, God is flesh and fully grasps the difficulties of the human condition. Jesus invites our doubts, challenges, and questions, as long as our faith in His answer rests on a humble heart willing to learn. For those who doubt because they do not

believe the Holy Spirit remains silent. And yet, love is so kind and understanding. If our faith is as tiny as a mustard seed, He is willing to work with that.

In the classic movie “It’s a Wonderful Life.” George is desperate in the bar and says, “Lord I am not a praying man .But I am at the end of my rope. Please show me the way.” Then he gets punched in the face. George meets an angel named Clarence, who guides him through a series of painful experiences to show him he really does matter and that his life is worth keeping. While George struggled deeply with the experiences, he does learn that he has a wonderful life.

Doubt is OK. However, the sooner we accept the truth, the better. Sometimes learning the right path can take too long and be very painful. Ask the addict.

Pilots doubt the Hebrew leadership's reasons for crucifying Jesus and yet chooses to go down the politically safe route to let it take place. Something I would imagine he regretted that choice for the rest of his life.

Doubt is part of life. In a world with so many lies and so much misinformation, it is wise to do so. However, when presented with truth or the inner voice of the Holy Spirit, we must cling to the truth that will always travel on a river of love. Even when filled with the Holy Spirit free-will allows us to choose so doubt comes in. When faced with a scam doubt is a way for us to pause, think it through and say no. Treat doubt a part of making right choices and you will give the Holy Spirit time to guide you on the right path. So doubt is a good thing.

When questioning life's paths, always ask if this is the loving or unloving path.

I believe I once read that a Sufi said. Sometimes a pessimist is an optimist who knows more.

John 20:24-29 NIV

Jesus Appears to Thomas24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Entitlement vs. Community

Matthew 9:10-17 NIV
10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.
11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples,
"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.
13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'
For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The question is why Jesus focused on teaching the poor. Wouldn't it make more sense to heal the powerful who could help him build his movement or even an army? The reason that does not make sense is that entitlement and greed are twin sisters. When entitlement receives a blessing such as a windfall profit, their way of thinking is "I got this profit because I deserve it." The idea of trickle-down economics is the grand lie for the ignorant. When wealth sees profit, it hordes it because it believes it deserves it. To the elite, knowledge is power to be hoarded and protected.

Now, if a grateful baker has left over bread at the end of the day, they may give it to the poor. When the market worker or cotton picker has been blessed by loving people who took them in out of love. They will spread that love to others for free. Greed hordes, however, love gives freely. Jesus teachings to love one another are expressed and amplified by the community. When we invest our time with other loving people, it is time well spent. A loving community can be trusted and creates a protective bubble from a selfish and greedy world. Loving Christians could be trusted in both trade and locating a spouse who truly cared. Raising kids in a loving community also has its benefits.

Finding a loving community today has the same benefits as it did back then. But today we have greater challenges in finding one. Back in Jesus ' time, there was one church. Today, there are many sectarian churches that function in tribal and unloving ways. Some are laced with political racism, cultural classism, and dogmatic divisions. Jesus would have none of this. In Jesus mind, there is only one Christian community: the one that loves one another and the world. If your community, or church, is divided, it is not of Christ, and you need to find one that is. If you can't find one, start one. All you need is a Bible and the love of Jesus to do so. Humility is a core value that drives gratitude and good manners. When we teach our children good manners, it sinks in, extending beyond gratitude to a personality trait like humility.

More Search: "Bible riches and wealth" Read and compare scriptures and avoid commentaries.

Holiness Separates us From the Ways of the World.

Romans 12: 2
“ Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—
his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

While a relationship with the Holy Spirit offers many blessings, it also shields us and sets us apart from evil influences, which means Holiness separates us from the world. It is difficult to heal a broken world and live in its brokenness at the same time. To save the drowning person, you must become a stronger swimmer with the skills to rescue, or they will pull you under. The following three Beatitudes warn us of these patterns and reassure us that Father God’s love is always walking by our side.

The next three Beatitudes explain our relationship with Jesus by showing how the world’s rebellion against love will also lead it to rebel against us. Hence, ” pick up your cross” and walk with Jesus. We fall back on our experiences that even though the world is cruel, we belong in the gentle arms of the Holy Spirit. We are made whole in these rejections, and if anything, they are reminders that we are on the right path. Never forget all evil has an ending, while all Holiness that is Love is eternal. We pray and have sympathy for those who are cruel to us because we know they are only attacking themselves with the loveless lives they live.

We know that our relationship with God is on a river of eternal love. Same as Jesus and the prophets before him.

> *10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
>
> *11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.*
>
> *12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

More

Read: 1 John 2:15-17

How Evil Separates us From Love

John 8:43-44 Jesus speaking at the Temple.
"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.
"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

The will of Evil will say and do anything to separate us from either God's or our love for one another. I tell you the truth: murder is to stop creation by killing love. Father God seeks a loving relationship with us, while Evil's will seeks to kill it.

> Note: The purpose of the prophet is to provide a stark, honest warning to people when they drift too far from the will of love, or worse yet. Completely rebel and refuse to listen out of their selfishness. As we used to say as New York kids, "The truth hurts." Pain is part of lifelong learning. When we refuse to recognize the pain of guilt over our wrongdoings, we tend to repeat the addiction to the errors of our ways. Hence, prophets are rejected by the people.

It is intellectually easy to say God is at fault for designing a world with so much suffering and injustice. It is painful to admit we were handed a sublime, wonderful world and filled it with our cultural horrors. You see, love requires free will for it to be pure and Holy. God loves us, but does not force us to love Him; that would be oppression, which would block true love from flowing. Jesus did not threaten us to love him. He only showed us how much he loved us, no matter how bad it got. Free will is a choice. Love only has value and meaning when it is freely offered. Just like in the Garden of Eden, too often we choose our selfishness over love. With those selfish choices, in rejection of Father God's loving guidance and protection, comes a world full of disasters. From captains of the Titanic to white supremacists, the selfish soul is a disaster disconnected from the loving Will of creation.

The world is a mess because, as a species, we collaboratively made it that way. We have always been our worst enemy. How ironic and hypocritical for the loveless intellectual to blame Christianity for wars when it was the elite educated who built and ran the cultures of hate. Greedy, power-driven humans created the world wars, not Jesus. Institutions that promote genocides, land grabs, and wars are the anti-Christ.

"Im looking at the man in the mirror," Mickey Jackson.

More

Search: "Bible Repent"

Church Betrayals

Matthew 7:15 NIV
"Watch out for false prophets.
They come to you in sheep's clothing,
but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

I get it, and so does your Creator. Billions have been betrayed, offended, hurt, appalled, disappointed, shocked, and forced out of so-called church institutions. The recent falls of tele-evangelist prosperity teaching, Hillsong, and Catholic pedophiles, and many smaller churches' infidelity and financial corruption. As if that is not enough, there is the pagan idol worship of political Christian nationalists and racist persecution within the ranks of many local churches. I offer no defense for any of this evil. Those who embrace such loveless behavior condemn themselves. The fact that they do these dirty deeds in the name of Jesus will yield far worse consequences. No amount of grape juice and loud worship will save the soul that defies the will of the Creator to Love one another.

Many of you looking at this have lost faith; that is evil's intention. However, it is because you believe way down deep in your souls that Jesus is about loving one another. It is from the point of view of Jesus teachings, and what he did, that grieves your heart at the folly and transgressions of church organizations. Here is the thing to remember: they are judged by what you have learned from the Son of God, Jesus. It is because you have faith that Jesus is judging their dirty deeds. So, you are grieved by the actions of these organizations because Jesus is grieved for the same reasons. It means you may have lost faith in the institutions and their leaders, but not the Holy Spirit of Jesus. Love is the final judge of all selfishness.

This means that no matter how offended you are with the church, the doors are still wide open for an intimate relationship with your Father God through the Holy Spirit of Jesus. If you are in a fallen church, you can always carve out a small group whose eyes see and ears hear for a Bible study, prayer group, or mission team, why not all three?

The lesson here is not to just sit complaining about the darkness that seems not to go away. Reinforcing why Christianity is a lost cause is a waste of time; that's what evil wants you to believe. Evil wants to shatter your faith in everything. Fight it, become the guiding light for people to follow. Just turn your heart toward your personal Savior and ask what to do. The answers via opportunities will come.

More

Search: "Bible false prophets"

Money Power Control Oppression

"Indeed, the interests of the oppressors lie in 'changing the consciousness of the oppressed, not the situation which oppresses them." - Paulo Freire Pedagogy of the Oppressed

While the will of God is to create through Love and the commandment of the Son of God, Jesus is to love one another, the will of Evil is to defy love and to kill love. Keep in mind that free will empowers love to flourish. That being the case, anything that inhibits free will, such as greed and oppression, is a symptom of evil will at play. There is a huge gap between the profit instructing people to love God and the religious leader proclaiming that people should fear and obey the church. One preacher may teach their flock that God loves a cheerful giver, while another demands funds to keep souls from purgatory. And yet, of the modern prosperity church, teaching a give-to-get investment theology.

Our first paradigm of twisting Jesus' teachings comes about 300 AD, when Rome officially adopts Christianity as its core faith. Rome, being the political and economic empire powerhouse, imposes its current culture of domination and suppression on the Christian religion. Prior to the Roman forced acquisition at the point of a sword, Christianity was spread through local grassroots efforts in small groups and churches. Most considered Christians as a subset of the Jews with a messiah and a new covenant based on loving one another and parting from the strict Hebrew society of 600 laws. Because the Roman Empire believed in the succession of power among emperors and kings, the Roman Catholic Church also taught the succession of power through bishops and Popes. Something Jesus never taught and opposed in calling us servants.

Rome imposed a hierarchy of power right down to kissing the leader's rings, castles, and militia. Roman scholars became Christian scholars, blocking the people from the scriptures and setting up a system that would empower them to acquire a direct relationship with God, which was impossible, and only through the church could one reach heaven. Roman Catholicism became both a gatekeeper and a toll collector for the poor seeking to reach God. Suddenly, we move from God’s love for giving us His love for us into a wooden-box confessional, with a human having power and judgment over us. Here, the evil will of the father of all lies succeeds in replacing the love of God with fear of God, making a ton of money out of it.

John 8:4
“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character,
for he is a liar and
the father of lies.”

Canon Law, church dogmatics, and temple rituals all became effective tools for altering a direct relationship between the Holy Spirit and the seeker into an obedient relationship with the institution's leaders. Now, many will argue that the pomp and circumstance provide a pathway to a relationship with God through faith-building. But the reverse is true. A soul who has a deep abiding love for Jesus and God can weave their way through the oppressive nonsense to touch the creator. Like tiny candles in the cathedral's darkness, the poor take the opportunity to pray silently in the pews, listening to the Holy Spirit. It is the common people who love and help their neighbors outside of the church. No matter how egregious the leadership's oppression, a single light can always move in the darkness. In the dark ages, wealthy popes lived in great estates with full bellies, and lone monks administered and fed the poor. Even within organizations of great corruption, the loving Holy Spirit of Jesus lives.

Of course, Academia's elitism creates elaborate dogmatics, laws, and traditions to protect, grow, and maintain the power of its financial and military empires. One of the earlier examples of this is maintained today in the high churches of the Roman Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church, the Church of England, and many Methodists. Contrary to what many believe, the Nicene Creed is not in the Bible's Scriptures. The Lord's prayer is in two places. The Lord's Prayer is a relational prayer designed to jump-start our personal prayer conversation with the Holy Spirit. It is a prayer of loving relationship that is live, real, and in the now. The Lord's prayer starts with "Our Father." It starts with a declaration of our loving relationship with a God who both created us and cares for us. The Lord's prayer is a declaration of direct spiritual DNA and physical connection to our creator.

In Stark contrast, the Nicene Creed was created at the First Council of Nicaea in 325 by Middle Eastern Catholic bishops, competing for political and theological superiority, and developed with quasi-good intentions. The idea was to get all the Christian sects on the same theological page about what it meant to be a Christian. While it is often treated as a scriptural way to pray, it is really a pledge of allegiance for the church.

Keeping in mind that the will of Evil is to divide us from a God who loves us. The Nicene Creed creates a gap in our faith by the repeated phrase "I believe". I believe another person exists, but that does not mean we have a relationship with them. I believe Babe Ruth existed, but I certainly do not have a relationship with him. I may believe that the Holy Spirit exists or existed back during the time of Christ, but not in my heart or as a vibrant guide in my life.

Then, in the last paragraph, the Nicene Creed drops the authoritarian bomb pledge of allegiance. "I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church." The rationale given today is that the word " Catholic " means all Christians, and yet many a non-Catholic winces at that line. The creed also separates us from the relationship of the indwelling Holy Spirit in us NOW, in a living, walking, taking relationship with Jesus NOW, into faith/home of something out of reach in the future.

> “I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
> and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
> and the life of the world to come.” - Nicene Creed

One more thing. It is Jesus' Holy Spirit of love that forgives sins, not the sprinkling of water on someone's head.

First of all, baptism existed among the Hebrews before Jesus as a community declaration of conversion to Judaism. The new convert commits to the laws of the Hebrew religion and the ways of the community. Also, a pledge to worship the one God. The prophet John baptized people into the Christian faith through repentance of sins and joining the Christian community. It is a remembrance of the forgiveness of sins. But only Divine love can forgive sins. Hot a human sprinkling water.

This greed of institutions and thirst for power plunged Western civilization into dark and decadent times until the works of Martin Luther and Tyndale translated the Scripture into the language of the common people. When the people discovered the truth and realized they had been had, well, both revolution and revival were in the air.

> Mathew 3
>
> **John the Baptist Prepares the Way**
>
> *3 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:*
>
> *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*
> *‘Prepare the way of the Lord;*
> *Make His paths straight.’ ”*
>
> *4 Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.*
>
> *11 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. <u>He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.</u>” Prophet John speaking*

It is only God and Jesus ' loving choice to baptize someone with the Holy Spirit. Keep in mind that because you are his child and he loves you, this gift is always close at hand. Father

God’s love is not a one-shot thing. He comes many times, in many ways, over a lifetime. No human has the power to command Father god’s free will. Yes, those with the indwelling Holy Spirit can intercede and request blessings over some; they cannot and should not command blessings.

More

Study: Liberation Theology “The Scandal of Redemption“ & “The Violence Of Love” by Oscar A. Romero

Imprisoning the Gospel

Galatians 1:6-7
I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all.

The danger of forcing the Gospels into intellectual boxes of exegesis analysis is that it turns the sacred word into an objective, distant illusion. In supremely intellectual Neo Catholic arrogance, these multi-salabic distortions have the undercurrent that only the most intellectually competent and highly academically awarded can comprehend. This, my friends, is the grand lie for sectarian hierarchical power struggles. Like Herman Hesse's Glass Been Gam of Magister Lude or the quest of becoming the Shankaracharya of the Himalayas, somehow we are to have faith that those who reach the pinnacle of power are the most anointed. This is, in fact, the grand lie of the father of all lies.

The Truth of the delusion of intellectualizing the scriptures comes from the arrogance that human understanding of black type on white paper is vast enough to cognize the light it is talking about. If the theologian, professor, or preacher's heart is not overflowing with the presence and Love of the Holy Spirit, the meaning of the Gospel will remain unseeable, untouchable, and out of reach. When professors teach these ideas, they misdirect the student from thinking about accepting a relationship with a Father God who loves them. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are not concepts to be debated; they are real.

One must be with and in relationship with the Divine Love of the Holy Spirit of Jesus in order to grasp the true purpose and meaning of the Creator. The purpose of the Gospels is to teach us to love one another as Jesus does. The Gospels teach us how to love God the way He loves us. The Bible guides us into the awakening that God is real, Jesus is real, the Holy Spirit is real, and the whole thing is real. This is what true enlightenment is.

The second delusion in studying the Gospels is a lack of understanding of how they are designed to be alive in a seeker's heart. What matters is not what is on the page, but what goes on inside the souls of those reading them and those they are listening to. The words of the gospel trigger our inner spiritual DNA to grow in our creator's will. The interpretations of the life of Christ and His teaching are found in the transformative lives of Christians, living the Holy Spirit fully alive within them.

Christian theologians are studying a bowl of seeds, wondering what they will turn into. While Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit and with no formal education, are growing the rich gardens and forests across the world. While the Church of England's powerful academics were burning preachers using English Bibles alive at the stake. The printed bible made its way into homes. throughout the English Isles. While the high academia prided themselves on

their misunderstandings of scripture, the lowly poor and undereducated launched into massive field revivals outside of the church walls. The Great Awakenings had tens of thousands of oppressed factory workers and coal miners with white tears streaming down their dirty faces. They surrendered to the Loving Will of Jesus, transforming their families and villages. Those Great Awakenings, seeded by Wesley and Whitfield, spilled over into further awakenings in the colonies, transforming the souls of a newly liberated nation. It was this personal tranformation-sancification of the soul that any individual with basic reading skills would allow the Holy Spirit to enter them, faithfully transforming and guiding their lives.

All great awakenings are made from the grassroots of the people because they do not possess the blind vale of addicted entitlement's arrogance. The person who approaches the Bible with an "I know nothing Lord, please help me, please save me." Will have the winds of Jesus loving Holy Spirit rush in to give just what they need when they need it. It is humility that opens the door to enlightenment, not arrogance. There are four types of literature on the Scriptures. First: There are the theologians' historical-grammatical accounts. These are the ways we understand God, but he is out of reach and untouchable. These folks live in pure objectivity, know no love, and are disconnected from the human subjective experience. The second is the sectarian church dogmatist's works on how the sect is to behave, say, and recite in service. The Common Book of Prayer and Doctrines and the Nicene Creed are samples of such works. The third is the popular interpretation books that tend to fall on the self-help or political dogmatism side of things. The last set is mockingly called, by academics, the Christian Mystics. I guess they are called mystics because the Holy Spirit is a mystery to academics. The works come from teachers filled with the love of God, practically begging us to wake up, fall in love with the Spirit of Jesus. They noted not to interpret scripture but eagerly share it in full faith that the Gospels will transform fellow Christians. Andrew Murray's "Humility" or R.A. Torrey's "Ways of the Holy Spirit" are all great starters. Theologians, priests, and high church leaders will still mock the evangelical nature of Witfield, Moody, and Graham in their efforts to spread the Gospel through the Holy Spirit. They are jealous because revival comes from the bottom up, with the winds of the Holy Spirit in the people's hearts, and never from the institution's dogmatic architecture down. The great awakening was born in the Isles of England and in early America by lone poor preachers of horse and the barns of the colonies. Holy Spirit awakening, do not come from the huge cathedrals and robes of European Empires. Mock the evangelizing of the gospel, and the vast network of mighty stone churches will grow empty and cold because the leaders of these institutions do not have love, as Paul so warned us. If leadership does not promote spreading the gospel to recruit people to come to Sunday service. The congregation will simply grow old and die off. In a shallow lesson, if you don't market something, nobody will buy your product. Arrogance tends to fall on its own sword.

You can see the disconnect in Karl Barth's analysis of Paul's writings. A leading modern day theologian. Praised in seminary schools.

> Paul is authorized to deliver—the Gospel of God. He is commissioned to hand over to men something quite new and unprecedented, joyful and good,—the truth of God. Yes, precisely —of God ! The Gospel is not a religious message to inform mankind of their divinity or to tell them how they may become divine. The Gospel proclaims a God utterly distinct from men. Salvation comes to them from Him, because they are, as men, incapable of knowing Him, and because they have no right to claim anything from Hun. The Gospel is not one thing in the midst of other things, to be directly apprehended and comprehended. The Gospel is the Word of the Primal Origin of all things, the Word which, since it is ever new, must ever be received with renewed fear and trembling. The Gospel is therefore not an event, nor an experience, nor an emotion—however delicate! Rather, it is the clear and objective perception of what eye hath not seen nor ear heard. Moreover, what it demands of men is more than notice, or understanding, or sympathy. It demands participation, comprehension, co-operation; for it is a communication which presumes faith in the living God, and which creates that which it presumes..

"The Gospel is not a religious message to inform mankind of their divinity or to tell them how they may become" Only someone who does not have a living relationship with the Holy Spirit could write such a divisive thing, worse yet teach it to innocent minds. Jesus teaching in being born again is the experience of the Divine living in the flawed Christian. Just as creation is the dine existing and supporting the not so divine. So it is with the experience of the true born again Christian. The perfect relationship with a living friend and guide of the sinner. The perfect living inside the imperfect. As I have said before, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." God the Father is not an unknown. He is the known because He is within me.

Barth creates this division between Jesus and us. "There is here no merging or fusion of God and man, no-exaltation of humanity to divinity, no overflowing of God into human nature." This is a lie from a bat out of hell. It is why so many of the high stone churches feel so empty, with their congregation all sitting 12 feet apart from one another. So unloving and lonely.

"False religion can be the most wicked thing in the world." - US Pastor

John 4:
34 Jesus explained, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.
35 Do you not say, ‘There are still four months until the harvest’? I tell you, lift up your eyes
and look at the fields, for they are riped for harvest.
36 Already the reaper draws his wages and gathers a crop for eternal life,
so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together.
37 For in this case the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true.
38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the hard work,
and now you have taken up their labor.”

As your relationships with Jesus Holy Spirit grow, so will the types of people and groups we hang out with change

A man once said to me dogma is the curtain that divides us from God. The temple leadership divides the people from their God by a curtain in the Temple. Today, institutions place a curtain of dogma between the people and the Holy Spirit.

The whole idea of entitlement superiority in any format is evil. The Bible records three incidents in which Jesus leveraged the Hebrew prejudice against the Samaritans. The Bible has three incidents of racism against Samaritans. I am sure there were many more incidents to shake out the Apostles' racist culture of Hebrew values that disdain the Samaritans, the sick, and the poor. Fundamentally, the Hebrews believed that any race or country was below them, the chosen people of God. Jesus set the stage through deeds and healings, showing that all prejudice runs counter to His command to love one another. In the case of today's Christian sects and politics, they are either loving or unloving in their values, which are reeking shame. For the truly Spirit-filled Christian, there is only one religion, and that is a love and service for Jesus to all people in God’s creation.

These are two pieces of scripture that warn us about whether our local church is truly Spirit-filled. Make note that the Holy Spirit will not work with or through any person or group filled with hate, racism, or elitism. First, look for idol worship, and second, evidence of the will of God (which is love) is present. Keep in mind that a group's unified pride in a political agenda gives a sense, or even hysteria, that the group loves one another. Don’t mix up mass hysteria in a political rally for unified love.

“The great masquerade of evil has played havoc with all our ethical concepts.”
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The first delusion of religious love is that we take care of our own, and that it is anointed. The idea that a group is privileged and blessed over other races or sects is directly opposed to

Jesus teaching. While almost everyone knows the arrogance of the Hebrew leaders walking past the naked, attacked man. And we know that the one would later help be a Samaritan. Note: The Hebrew leaders were not good; they rejected the Samaritans, who were holy ones. What is revealing about Jesus' parable is who the Hebrew leadership sent to justify their racism. To the Hebrews at the time and Israeli leadership today, the phrase "neighbor" only means fellow Hebrews. In contrast, Jesus' definition of neighbor is the entire world. This is how they justify the genocide of Gaza and the West Bank. The Hebrews believed only their race was the children of God; Jesus taught that everyone is a child of the Father God. From the The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-29 NIV

> *25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"*
> *27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'[a]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*
> *28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*
> *29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

When we look into a church or community, there are pockets of people stuck in idol political worship, and others are truly doing the "Will" of God. Missional churches have pockets of people who truly liberate the poor and heal the sick. Best to link up with them. While there is much criticism about the Catholic Church, its division of Catholic Charities - Catholic Relief Services and many related groups are the largest safety net for the poor in the world. An army of workers serves in the background with no PR on what they are doing. While Mother Teresa's group has received much recognition, thousands of Catholic and other Christian schools and clinics stretch across the planet. In the background of refugee camp news feeds, there are thousands of tents and millions of meals served by Christians. Recently, the International Catholic Relief Service had $ 750 million in US Aid funding cut by the Trump administration. This means relief workers in the many refugee camps have no food for the people they serve. Another case was that evil will oppress and even kill those with goodwill, and the people help. Hence Israeli kills UN aide workers.

More

Read: R.A. Torrey's "Ways of the Holy Spirit"
Search: John Wesley, Sermon 2 "Almost Christian"
Search: George Whitefield, Sermon "The Almost Christian"

Elitism's Delusion

James 4:4
But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:
"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

The delusion of elitism is that, in the grand scheme of things, they are really not elite in any way, shape, or form.

There are many layers to elitism, class, race, social status, looks, institutional management rankings, authoritarianism, grades, inheritance, the neighborhoods we live in, and the church sect that belongs to. Humans judge and rank both themselves internally and others externally. This all comes down to an unloving sense of power that people have above others and the perceived power we have over others below us. We are very aware of the status and the control money has over us. We are also aware that wage suppression is a power that the wealthy use to hire 'those people' to serve us in retail and other jobs. When elitism pushes the limits of oppression, violence surfaces to bring balance. It's all a very unloving, unholy state of affairs.

"One can not hold that which one does not enrich by ones own being
except by violence."
- Inyat Kahn Toward *The One*

When Jesus washes the feet of His apostles, He completely unravels the Hebrew authoritarian values of elitism so that some people have power over others. Hierarchies of pride are dead ends for the unholy. On the path of love, we all become servants to one another through love. Yes, the business owner can lead as a servant. They serve to keep the company healthy and honest, and to support the families that work for it. The leader-servant is grateful for their financial blessing and for the people who make it happen. The leader serves all levels of their organization as a family. The Machiavellian leader drowns in the elitist MBA world of deferred expense, wage suppression, and profit gorging. Like "The Christmas Carol," Scrooge's partners forge their chains of death. As the Ghosts warned Scrooge, "Mankind was our business."

" All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."
- George Orwell, Animal Farm

Religious sects have their own form of elitism to be cautious of. The obvious is the pride of preacher popularity, which brings great profits. Also, priestly institutional authorities. The more insidious form of elitism is a doctrine woven into cultural elitism. Let's be straight: Jesus never wanted a divided church of sects, each believing it was superior to the others. Doctrinally, Jesus never wanted those who declare themselves to be born again or speak in

tongues to believe they are superior to others. When he unchurched, he sees Christians behave this way; they know it is unloving, so religion must be fake.

1 John 4:20
"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For anyone who does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen,
cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

When Jesus tells his followers, "They will know you are my followers if you love one another." - Gospel of John. It is simple: the sin of elitism in any format is the mask of an unloving soul or group of people. If this is the church you go to, run, your path is elsewhere with others who know how to love another.
Note: 1509 John Calvin 1635 Institute of the Christian Tradition states God is an absolute sovereign with predestination, some are chosen for heaven at birth, and the rest for hell. In Calvinism, Christ died for the few. The Reformed Church of Switzerland, Arminius, 1588, opposed Calvin's teachings and embraced the idea that all humans have free will.

More

Search: 1 Timothy 6:17, James 1:10, Proverbs 11:28

Theology of Why

1 Corinthians 16:14
"*Do everything in love"*

Love creates and supports the existence of everything. Non-tangible Love transcends the objective, qualitative, and quantitative rules of the academic and theological culture. While Academia, maybe except in the arts, tap-dances around what they cannot define in objective terms, like love, except to their spouses. Academic grammatical theology suffers from the same cognitive restrictions, leaning on the Bible's grammatical and historical contexts rather than on why Jesus did what he did. Some theological and local Christian leadership are so blind that they believe the activity of the Holy Spirit's miracles stopped with the death of the Apostles. Of course, that makes the congregation dependent on the dogmatic rituals of the pastor/priest for entry to heaven. The blind leading the blind.

The flaw of intellectual objectivism is that those assumptions often fade in time. At one time, leaders in academia agreed on the concept of geocentrism, that the Earth was the center of the universe. Anyone who disagreed would be persecuted. For over thousands of years since Jesus crucifixion, an army of theologians, monks, and pastors have dissected the words of the Bible in order to profit. For knowledge is power.

All is vanity -Ecclesiastes 1

While at the same time throughout history, the innocent and illiterate who have nothing more than faith that the Son of God Jesus, who knows their name, will come when called. To these souls, with no status of money, have humble open hearts for the Holy Spirit sails in, comforting hearts, and offering new paths to walk with Him.

No seminary grade of title can rate our capacity to love or serve the will of our Father God. How moronic it is to spend three years in graduate divinity school and never take a course on the Holy Spirit or love, or learn how to talk with our Lord in prayer. Any institution that cannot teach on the Holy Spirit and on praying with Him does not know the Spirit of Jesus. There is no divinity without the Divine.

Mind you, Divinity, as with Holiness, is measured by our capacity to love.

How many of us have met someone who can quote the Bible scripture with great condemning confidence, which means a nasty, condemning person. One may own the black type on white paper and still be clueless about the Love that created it.

Jesus' demonstration through deeds of teaching to love one another has transformed human cultures and behavior throughout the world. Whenever we debate whether something is right or wrong, it should be through the lens of Jesus teachings. While the establishment mocked Christ on the cross to come down and walked away, they were deluded by their evil plan; they were blinded by their own egos. The fact is, Jesus did come down from the cross in the hearts of millions and transform the world in doing so. In contrast, 50 years later, the Roman Empire leveled the Temple in Jerusalem.

The intellect deludes itself into thinking that Jesus' miracles of mercy stopped at the crucifixion, or perhaps were a literary myth, and must filter out the miracle mercies happening throughout the world today. We must love one another for any of this to work. Academia may say there are no more healings, and yet hundreds of thousands of clinics provide health services for free around the world.

They say the feeding of five thousand was impossible, while today millions of free meals are served every day in refugee camps, schools, rescue missions, and food banks around the world. How many mothers packaged an extra sandwich for a child who will share it with a hungry friend?

They say Christians have proven to be heartless, and yet during the Iraq war, soldiers ran out to pick up wounded Muslim soldiers on the field and carried them into their own medical camps.

Even intellectuals point fingers at racist Christian politics as being anti-Christ in their behavior. The answer to the intellectuals is simple: “They are not Christians. Christians are the ones with the Holy Spirit in their hearts, uniting and healing the people.

More: Search “1 Peter 4:8”

Don’t be Quick to Judge

Matthew 7:1-6 NIV

7 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs.
If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

While I have ranted about the addiction to institutional wealth and academic arrogance, we should not be so quick to judge those individuals. Who knows what life has in store for them? Not all are wicked. Remember, before Paul the Apostle, he was Saul of Tarsus, killing Christians for the government. These words are designed to help you avoid sinful paths. We can not see into the hearts of humans the way the Holy Spirit can. While the Church of England is guilty of horrific crimes (burning preachers at the stake) and the oppression of the poor, it also provided the knowledge platform (Oxford University) for breakaway reformation revolutionaries. Keep in mind that William Tyndale, Martin Luther, John Wesley, Whitefield, and the works of thousands of monks and millions of faithful parishioners that have liberated and healed the world came from both the farms, mines, and the higher institutions. It would be easy to convict Catholicism for the Great Inquisition and Xavier of condemning India's Goa, invoking the Jesuits into a horrific genocide on behalf of the population. In contrast, Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities, with a billion-dollar budget, deploy armies of loving souls who sacrifice their time and energy in forgotten refugee camps and remote schools around the world. There are hedge fund managers who have used their power and wealth to rescue talented youth in impoverished Somaliland, sending them to a school that has launched them into the world's top universities.

George Mueller rescued homeless children from the turn-of-the-century, cruel streets of industrial England and refused to ask for funding. Relying on his prayers alone, he stood one morning with his hungry orphans looking at an empty table. It was a town baker who answered a calling to feed the kids, to get up in the middle of the night to start baking. While the kids, Mueller, and his wife were praying, there was a knock at the door from the baker. “The Lord woke up in the middle of the night to bake for the children.” By the time Mueller’s life had come to an end, he had traveled the world teaching, and the sprawling orphanage covered city blocks with over 3,000 kids, warm food, and training for the trades. God’s love uses a rebellious Christian to rob the cruel streets of industrial England to save and transform thousands. A fellow named Charles Dickens knew George.

The hundreds of thousands of mission projects around the world have been founded by wealthy foundations backed by private donations. So not all wealth is evil.

> One damp winter night at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, I was sitting with security, listening to the lines of homeless people sleeping on the floor mats, away from the freezing cold raging outside. A well-dressed woman in a Mercedes-Benz knocked at our back door. She said she had a party and there were a ton of expensive leftovers the caterer was going to throw out. We unpacked trays of gourmet roast beef, shrimp, cheeses, breads, and more. She was embarrassed by the waste, but we prayed over her. We asked her to step in so we could issue a donation receipt, but she declined. Then she looked over our shoulder and saw a small army of homeless people sleeping in the halls on mats with that overwhelming smell of wet wool. She looked at us, thanked us for our work, and left crying.

When I was asked to do mission work in Zambia for the second time, the local people asked me to tell their story through photography and writing so that visiting white missionaries would feel more comfortable. This led to my first book for donations, The Beatitudes. This book's cover is from that book. That book was read by the hospice owner and the MD in California, who saw the clinic in the pictures. They went to the local Hospital and packed all their used equipment into a 44-foot container to be shipped to a tiny clinic in Zambia. When it arrived at the village, people came out to unpack it. The next day, there was a long line in front of the clinic. It was not clinic day, so we asked what this line was. The locals were in line to see what it felt like to sleep in a bed. All missionaries will tell you it does not take much to help the poor. The cover picture of this book comes from that mission.

As for the Holy Spirit, He keeps His attention on those who do his work. When the fire engulfed Paradise, California, Ms. Cook got all her patients out through flames dancing across the road and exploding propane tanks. While the car filled with prayer, they all arrived at a safe place unscathed. Life in relationship with the Holy Spirit will have its miracles, both big and small. It was Ms. Cook who donated the container to the Zambian clinic.

Jesus told us to love one another, liberate the poor, and heal the sick. Wealth has donated billions in scholarships and remote schools to lifted countless souls out of the trauma of poverty. True, some of this comes from donation parties, but the vast majority of it comes from ordinary people around the world who care. There are large missions like St Judes complex that offer free services for children with cancer and their parents. There are also the desperate doctors trying to keep people alive in UN-funded hospitals bombed and shot up by hysterical, genocidal Israeli soldiers.

It may not have taken any money for Jesus to heal the poor then, but it takes a ton of money to heal and feed the poor scattered around the world now. And yet that core value to love one another drives us to try. James tells us to judge a man by his works. So we should not judge

the wealthy just for the wealth. People change with age. During the American Gilded Age, many of the great wealth did not care about the suffering of the working class. In his later years, Carnage became aware of the contrast between his enemies' wealth and the poverty in which he grew up. It is said that after his death, they found in his desk a crumpled note that said: “I will spend half of life making money a the rest giving it away.” Many a foundation has taken that path. The Rockefeller, Clinton, and Gates foundations have taken that path. Keep in mind that these foundations have liberated thousands and fed millions. When wealthy figures, such as movie stars and rock stars, hit the mission trails to help the poor, they are transformed by their experiences. All are humbled and transformed by mission work. Let the Holy Spirit of God use you, and you will be transformed. What starts as a PR photo op soon breaks the heart and humbles the soul. And yet we must live with other dark-hearted evil souls that will destroy USAID, which delivered the consequences of millions dying of disease and hunger.

Wealth is also part of the formula for liberating and healing the world. Money itself is innocent. It is how it is earned and invested that judges the character of the soul. The poor who share a lot of bread, or the wealthy who build a clinic in the African bush, are really the same thing. Great wealth can be terribly greedy. And wealth can also be of great good. It is only a matter of scale. For the poor or the wealthy, the choice between selfish greed and selfless assistance is fundamentally the same. Evil’s will or the path of the Holy Spirit’s Will is ours to take. Time forces us to choose a path; however, we can not choose the consequences.

“This is the way” - Mandolorian

More

Search “Proverbs 10:12 - NRSV”

The Intellect and Scripture

All things and thoughts come to end.
But love transcend all and in it the eternity of existence. Love is the eternal truth of the soul.

Proverbs 14:12 ESV
There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

James 1:22
"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 1:5
"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Be mindful the Intellect can lie and deceive itself.

Romans 1:28
And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

1 Timothy 4:1
But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

Isaiah 47:10
You felt secure in your wickedness and said,
'No one sees me,'
Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you;
For you have said in your heart,
'I am, and there is no one besides me.'

Exodus 10:20
But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go.

2 Timothy 3:13
But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse,
deceiving and being deceived.It Takes so Little to Alter History

Loneliness

Isaiah 41:10 ESV
Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Loneness is the number one disease in America, and it's all around us. In a very kind, loving church, there are people who are lonely from poverty, losing loved ones, poor marriages, living alone, and the horror of the evening news. This is why church coffee-hour meet-and-greets are so important. Tiny talks that say, “I care” can make a person’s week. Silly car talk or sharing kids' stories, giving some advice, and praying over often for more powerful than that day's sermon or communion. A community of loving one another in small ways brings a sense of inner peace and belonging. In the church, we all sit still or stand in place for worship. Yet in the fellowship hour, we mingle, touch, and the children run around between our legs, stealing as many cookies as they can. It is all so glorious in the eye of the Holy Spirit. Keep your eyes and hearts open because often even the most social and esteemed deacon can be hurting inside.

Remember that Love is Holiness, the Holy person is the loving one.

> I worked in a patisserie, handing out desserts and cakes. It is an interesting counter because in a really tough world, we all deserve a little treat. From the counter, you see the world. A couple with a solid marriage for over 50 years, or a single mom or dad with the kids. Often, a single person buys a birthday cake for themselves, I sing them happy birthday, and they laugh. Sometimes I tell them, “Now take this home and pray, Say thank you, Lord. It's been a tough week, and I deserve this.”

You will discover patterns of love’s ministry in your life. While working at a bakery, you can tell when someone at the counter needs to talk. The counter suddenly became empty, so I could give them my full attention. Sometimes for twenty minutes or so.

> One day, I was questioning myself, " What am I doing here? When the old, tattered man was walking down the counter, looking at the desserts that he knew he could not afford. His sadness hung over him like a dark cloud. I struck up an interesting conversation with him that lasted for a good half hour. Seemed like a nice guy. Before leaving, he stopped and looked at me. “You know you are the only person who has talked with me in over two years. Thank you,” The blessing is ours.” I said. “Thanks for the nice conversation.” I should add that this was not a Bible-thumping get-saved conversation. That was not what he needed. He needed someone to share and care that the world loves him. That he does matter. Anyway, when one expresses Love they are teaching the Bible.

If you are a humble, willing servant, the Holy Spirit needs souls like you to do His work. To go where we are needed. To do what has to be done. I tell you the truth: you will end up doing things you thought were impossible and going to places that are inconceivable. Your Father God dreams bigger than you could possibly imagine. For a relationship, all you have to do is walk with him.

More

Search “Bible being alone”

Walking with Jesus

John 1:37-39 Amplified Bible
37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.
38 And Jesus turned and saw them following Him, and asked them, "What do you want?"
They answered Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?"
39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went [with Him] and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

Living in a Cruel World

1 Thessalonians 5:21
"But test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil"

How do we carry a relationship with divine Love in a narcissistic, greedy, oppressive, and cruel world? Souls who choose to love one another become separated from a world of greed and oppression. And yet it is eternally worth it. Keep in mind that whoever wins the most toys also loses them all in the end.

A relationship with the Spirit of Jesus in a cruel world separates us from the cruel, selfish people and yet has us walk amongst them. Holiness separates us from the sin and addictions of the world, but does not ask us to withdraw from it. Jesus did not. Jesus wants us to walk the troubled world's streets and heal it.

When Christ must carry His cross up the mountain, a man from out of town passing by hears the loud mob that came to crucify Jesus. Rome (that did not want to crucify Jesus and saw no wrong in him) grabbed a man called Simon from Cyrene and forced him to help carry the cross for the tortured and bleeding Jesus. So we note that while the crowd (that did nothing to stop the crucifixion) was divided between those who jeered at Jesus and those who were horrified, one was pulled out to assist by Rome. I am sure the soldiers saw that Jesus was in such a bad way that he would never make it, and they were on the clock to get a job done.

Matthew 27:31-32
"After they had mocked Him, they removed the robe and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.""Along the way they found a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and they forced him to carry the cross of Jesus."

Mark 15:21 The Crucifixion of Jesus
21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

Luke 23:26 The Crucifixion of Jesus
26 As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Note that this tiny scripture was so important that it appeared in three of the Gospel books.

Imagine the scene of a very cruel, selfish mob yelling for their lynching in mass hysteria, with this one man helping the Son of God to his death. The Bible gives no dialogue to this moment in time. No doubt there were some glances through all the blood from the crown of thorns. Coming from Cyrene, he must have been a dark-skinned man. In prayer, I've seen

Christ’s log dragged over his left shoulder while his right arm helps Jesus off the ground and up the hill. These logs were used for all of Rome's cruel crucifixions and must have smelled of spoiled blood and death. The blood from Jesus must have been dripping down the man’s body, and he must have wondered if he could even make it to the top of the hill carrying a heavy log and the tortured body of Christ at the same time. Yet in times of need, the Holy Spirit steps in to give us strength. Perhaps it was that same Spirit that placed the thought in the Roman soldier to assist Christ.

What a life-transforming experience for this man, simply walking past after his business trip. Suddenly, he is forced to carry all that is hideous about the human race along with all that is Holy at the same time. He must endure the ignorance and evil in the hearts of the human race all the way to the crucifixion. Covered in the blood of the creator's son, Jesus, King of the Jews, he witnessed the world reject God’s Love in the most horrific way. Certainly, he later found the Christians to make sense of what had just happened to him. And some believe he was in the upper room during Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit entered and transformed Jesus' praying, frightened followers.

Mathew 16:24-26 ESV Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus
24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

Here is the key takeaway. Often, we are placed in life, even when we are forced to choose a side. During the trudge up the mountain, it was lined with people who persecuted Jesus and also those who loved him. But neither of them did anything to stop injustice. Only one intercedes in any way, and that is Simon, whether he liked it or not. It is my heart that he saw the injustice and cruelty of the event before him, and God gave him just the reason to step in and help, even if by Roman sword. In the community, he must have earned an interesting reputation. “That is the one man who actually did something. The man who carried Jesus cross.” Brief as his relationship with Jesus was, it needed no words. He carried both the love of the world and the sins of the world at the same time.

A relationship with the Holy Spirit of Jesus within us results in our carrying both the sins of the world and the Holiness within the world at the same time. Let no one tell you it is easy because it is not. Just as Jesus wept over Jerusalem, it breaks our hearts as well. However, knowing that we are the ones who step out of the crowd to help and heal the world's burdens is eternally worth it.

As he shouldered the burdens of the Creator's Son, Simon saw the world for what it was in all its cruelty and innocent Holiness. Something I am sure he and those who witnessed his acts never forgot. Simon was the one person who stepped in and did something. At the beginning,

I am sure he resented being forced and was filled with "Why me?" doubts. However, after learning who Jesus was, it all began to make sense. The fool might claim that he enabled the Crucifixion. But this is false. He lightened Jesus' burden and allowed the inevitable to take place.

Upon reflection, Simon most likely asked the same question as most heroes who get thrown unexpectedly into life-threatening situations:”Why me?” The answer is always simple. Father God saw that you were available and able to meet the task. God also knew he was the one who, without question, would accomplish what was needed at that moment. In this, he was greatly blessed. Of all the Apostles, it was the common man who helped Christ to the cross. It will always be the common soul that keeps the Gospel of Christ moving forward in an Evil world.

This is part of your relationship. Pick up the cross and walk with the Lord.

More

Search: “Bible cruel,” “Bible mercy”

Love All That's Different

John 13:34-35
34 "A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you,
so you must love one another.
35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another."

High church religious institutions with deep roots in academic culture secretly struggle with God. From 300 years after Christ's crucifixion, great debates about the nature of God and the Holy Trinity have not only taken place but have managed to cloud our relationship with our Father, the creator. They have blinded us from His Love. When we add academia's culture of objectivism to the power mix, we become lost in the analysis of syntax and history in an effort to figure out the meaning of Christ's teachings. Love is the simplest thing to understand. We can only understand by doing.

It is important to grasp that Jesus teaching back then are not just history. Jesus, along with His teachings, are apart of the eternal here and now.

Jesus' teaching all stems from our loving one another, which is exceedingly simple and accessible to anyone, regardless of race, culture, intelligence level, or life situation. Illiterates in prisons, homeless shelters, and places of severe humanitarian crisis get it. It is impossible to grasp a relationship with God on academia's version of the unseen and unknowable God. What academia is, in fact, teaching us is that objectivity blinds us to seeing or knowing through a relationship with Father God. How unloving.

The Divine Love of the Holy Spirit is deeply personal because He is a person. Jesus' healing was motivated by one reason: He loved us. While many healings were public, others were very private. The Biblical healings of the Rabi's daughter, the Roman's son, and the cripple by the healing fountain were all deeply personal for many hidden reasons. In some cases, people are healed and do not know who healed them until later. God's eternal love through his Son, Jesus, then moves through the Apostles and their followers to spread the Gospel around the world. If you want a relationship with Jesus and his followers, you must love the world as they did. It is the power and mercy of God's love, moving through us, guiding us, and transforming us, that builds the relationship called sanctification.

We talked earlier about not grieving the Holy Spirit. There are many unloving ways Christians block the Holy Spirit from transforming them. Love unites, while divisive cultural values divide us. Tribal values of racism, classism, sexism, and materialism all separate us into unloving souls. We are free to do so; however, Divine love will not work through such

people and does not want to pollute the purity of love with them. Whether a person proudly declares themselves to be Christians, if they suppress African races or persecute Latin ones, or the poor, they have not a prayer of joining us in eternal heaven. Those who riot in the name of Jesus condemn themselves by rebelling against his commandment to love one another. While Jesus healed for free, those who deny healthcare services condemn themselves with anti-Christian behavior. Those who worship the "father of all lies' over truth in facts and a quest to gain power from money and politics condemn themselves.

Jesus speaking to the Hebrew leadership plotting to kill him.

John 8:44 NIV

44 "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

While God and Jesus are the names above all names, they are not authoritarian as many churches present them. Yes, they are the authors of life. In life, we are free to either destroy or create a wonderful new world. Love's grace is that it grants us the free will to do the right thing. Love transcends all human laws and authoritarian rules. Love has us do things out of caring and mercy, not out of fear, anger, and greed. Leveraging people's fear and selfishness is in evil rebellion to the will to love one another.

It is worth noting that while Jesus calmed the seas and brought back the dead. He never used those powers to destroy or kill. Even when nailed to a cross. That is not the way of Divine Love.

We know God loves diversity because he creates diversity in everything. Billions of different plants, insects, animals, races, and ecosystems are a testament to that fact. Then, in each category, everything is unique. Right down to each individual snowflake. God loves diversity, and it is wonderful how everything that is so different works together. For a soul to say my race is better than your race is an arrogant and idiotic one, saying my snowflake is better than yours. It is all one creation where nothing is better than anything else; it just has a different purpose.

When one human attacks another for any selfish reason, they are messing with one of God's children. When bank execs fleece the poor with predatory lending, they are stealing from God's children. When oil execs profit by what MBAs call "deferred expense," pollution destroys God's garden and sickens His children. These executives are fooled by Evil's material addictions, which they believe are privileged blessings. Truth is, they condemn themselves for destroying God's garden. No Ivy League attorney or expensive PR agency will be available to appeal their final judgment.

The curse of greed has been with us since the beginning. Genesis 4:4-9 **Cain and Abel**

4 Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.[b] She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." 2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

> *6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."*
>
> *8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*
>
> *9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abe*l?"
>
> *"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"*

For those who dwell in communities and classes that are proponents of Spencer Darwinism, "Survival of the Fittest," you are worshiping elite academia's anti-Christ culture. My suggestion is to run. The world is the Creator's garden; to mess it up is not only a stupid thing to do, but it is also a great way to get yourself thrown out of the garden.

When we love life's diversity in the human race and the environment, great things can be achieved. When we cherish our diversity, meaning helping and healing the least of these, the blessing of the Beatitudes moves from the individuals into societies as a whole. Now wouldn't that be a nice way to live?

I realize these are strong words to digest; prophets' words always are. However, do not be discouraged; they are gifts that help you keep your relationship with your Creator strong, no matter how weird the world gets. One cannot push out the darkness in a room. It is a hopeless effort. However, we can be the tiny candle or cell phone that lights the way for others out of darkness. Jesus tells us to be the light, so be the light. God will take care of the ones with darkened hearts. All gardeners weed their gardens.

John 8:12-30 EHV

Jesus Is the Light of the World

12 When Jesus spoke to them again, he said, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The Bible For Transformation

John 1:1 NASB 1995
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was with God in the beginning.
3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Bible's teachings have transformed and supported the lives of millions, if not billions, of people without any authoritarian support. Many US presidents read it daily, just as drunkards and poor mothers do, seeking guidance and protection for their families. Jesus' teachings, along with the Holy Spirit who guides those reading, have been and remain all that is Good about the human condition. While the Bible is preached from the pulpit for the most part, it is a tool of the individual and the small groups. It is 100% reflective in its design and a playground for the Holy Spirit to move into the heart of the humble Christian hungry to be saved. It is not an adventure book to see what happened to others. It is a reflection book to see how we have changed ourselves and save the world around us. As the Gospel Rescue Mission sign says, "Jesus Saves."

The turn of the century and the pre-Civil War Great Awakenings were achieved by poor, common working-class people in large masses, starving for salvation from their desperate lives. Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and scripture gave them a reason to change. They did change, gave up abuse, drinking, and greedy ways for a more loving community. And with each little change, their faith grew. It was the small group meeting of the Washingtonians (1840) that started the movement to free people from alcoholism. It worked, and people of the community, seeing the dramatic change, would say, "He's got religion." But it was more than that. They had the Spirit of God moving in them. It's more than just stopping drinking. They became trusted members of the Christian Body of Christ. This was the birth of AA.

Awakening is just what the word implies; it is when people receive eyes that see and ears that hear. When they are awakened, they are transformed. "I can not live like this anymore. I do not want this loveless life. And please, Lord, change me into a different person." All awakenings have at their core repentance. Repentance is the core of transformation because it is when humility flings open our inner doors to change. The soul does not know what has to change because it is trapped in a million wrong beliefs and behaviors. However the Holy Spirit knows where they are and touches areas that no theologian or therapist can go. Madness can not fix madness. Only the Holy Spirit can find and alter the hidden places. Only love can sneak into the dark corners of the soul where fear and shame lurk to chase evil out. The repenting relationship with Jesus allows the Holy Spirit to surface the pain in our lives into a safe place, forgive us, and then teach us how to move on. God tells us, "Ok you did

what you did. Don't do it again. You are forgiven because I love you as my child. Love is why you will move forward on different paths and make different choices."

When we read the living scripture of the Bible from the perspective of why Jesus taught what he taught, it comes alive in our souls. The four scriptures concerning Samaritans were all there to teach about the sin of Hebrew (and US) racist oppression and how we should love and reach out to all nations. Later in the Bible, Peter and Paul get in a heated debate about Christians vs. Jews vs. Gentiles and decide there is no separation between Jesus Holy Spirit serving any and all races.

When we only intellectually analyze what takes place in the Bible, it allows Christian leaders to either miss the point of the lesson or, worse yet, grossly twist it for political, financial, and seeker-friendly means. Case in point is the common sermon about the three talents.

Academic, seeker-friendly, and prosperous churches look at the parable of the talents and apply its lessons to their congregations' sense of social entitlement. Keep in mind that when someone reads the Bible for what happens and even boasts of their knowledge by memorizing it, they miss the hidden "why" behind it. Objectivism then teaches this lesson of lost opportunities, making the servant with one talent the fool and the profits the most successful. Of course, the wealthy donors and deacons can sit smug because they believe that the one with the most money is the most blessed donor and the poorest is to be pitied, if not punished. This plays beautifully with the seeker-friendly super church.

When a preacher who is guided by the Holy Spirit reads, they will witness why the Bible is designed to develop the congregation's relationship with the Holy Spirit; in this case, the master is Jesus. Let's break this down. Look for why both the master and the servants do what they do. From a parable about our relationship:

Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents

First, the master trusts his servants by giving them the money to invest because he is going away. Hint: Jesus is soon going away, so he must trust his apostles and followers with his teachings.

Second, he already knows the souls of each servant and what they are capable of. He allocates them Talents (bags of money) based on their abilities.

While the one who received five talents doubled them, the second he gave two talents, and he also doubled them. The master gave the amount they could handle successfully for return. Note that both doubled what was given, and in both, he gives the same compliment."

> *21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'*

The master returns, and the time has come to settle accounts. The one who buried the talents because he was fearful returned the one talent only to be reprimanded. The talent is taken away from him. The master then says:

> *28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

This lesson is not about missed opportunities. This important parable is about our relationship with the Holy Spirit in the gospel that Jesus sacrificed his life to give us. Do we boldly go and invest in the Gospel with the world around us, or do we hoard it in our hearts for 45 minutes each Sunday out of fear of how the world will treat us? We fail to evangelize because we fear the world's rejection.

The man with one talent who buried it would be like the man who went to church once a week, but he neither went on missions to spread the Gospel nor did he spread the gospel because he was afraid of what the neighbors would say. He simply buried the teaching of Jesus in his heart. Keep in mind that man had the free will to invest and spread the Gospel. He could have overcome his past fears and trusted in the Lord's faith in him. After all, he trusted him with a bag of money. This is key to why. Even though the Lord trusted him, he did not trust himself, the world, or his God. The lesson is the more we trust in God, the more He will trust us with more and more.

The loving, gentle part of this parable I adore. The master knows the hearts of servants and gives them only what they can handle. Unlike religious dogmatic rules, the Holy Spirit is deeply personal. He knows my name." God trusts His children to make the right personal choices. In a life with the indwelling Spirit guiding us, I have yet to hear him force me to do anything I could not do. Though I have been yelled at, He simply places life before us, sometimes interceding to suggest what to do. Our faith is built on this mutual play of trust that comes with some unpredictable and amazing challenges.

There is another gentile message from the Master. He is patient with our capabilities. We can't all be Pauls going to Rome and writing half the Bible. We cannot all be Billy Graham or Martin Luther King Jr., but small tasks are significant in the grand scheme of things in our own way.

It is worth noting that the Master stands back to give us a chance to own our own lessons. Like teaching a child to ride a cycle. At some point you must let go of the seat, and watch.

I tell you the truth: The loving cafeteria lady who consoles a broken teen's heart is far more valuable than the billionaire setting up a donation photo op.

The World

Romans 12:2 NIV
2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is
—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The Scripture of Relationship

2 Timothy 3:16-17
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

When reading theologians and religious leaders, we find that their analysis and exegesis of scripture warn us that, in their hearts, there is a gap between analyzing love and being loving. While one scholar can pontificate for 3,000 pages to justify church dogma, another Christian mystic is begging us to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. I once had a seminary professor scoff at what she called Christian authors, such as Tozer and Torri of Murray, calling them "mystics." She would not allow us to even use John Wesley or Whitfield in her papers because she felt their theology was not contextually accurate. Ironic in a Wesleyan seminary school.

First, life with the Holy Spirit is NOT intellectual. It is a core, highly personal, and transformative experience. If, while contemplating a paper, I heard from the Lord how to interpret scripture, it could not be used in the paper. That speaks volumes. If the Creator of the universe teaches in a dream, it is not allowed. Only the preconceived prejudice of another academic’s paper can be cited. Institutions know that the degree of one's loving faith can not be graded. In that the oppressive power lurks. Truth is, three years of graduate seminars can never teach what one year working in a homeless center or an African school can.

My advice is that if the text you are reading is not begging you to fall in love with the Holy Spirit of Jesus, to listen to Him and do His Work, then throw it in the wastebasket. Jesus does not ask for analysis from us; He asks us to love one another, as in taking care of one another.

Jesus For the People

Luke 4:18
Jesus announces His ministry with scripture.
18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

Look throughout history and in every country in the world, great spiritual awakenings and revivals always come from the streets. It comes from the common souls, the oppressed, and thirsty to hear from their God. Christian leaders may claim they started revivals, but it is the hearts of the seekers crying out that get the response of the Holy Spirit sweeping in. This is why we see the great awakenings and current-day growth of small churches in places of oppression and suffering. Some may say that contemporary rivals in isolated seminary schools are there because of their teachings. Not so, it is when the students/congregation's hunger and devotion pierce through all the nonsense and cry out in impatience. "Lord I need you now." Even when the leadership is corrupt, the congregation's love for their Lord can break through in worship or prayer, drawing the Holy Spirit's attention and transformation. If you want to be baptized by the Holy Spirit, then the only place to go is to Jesus. And anyone can go there, anywhere in the world, and at any time.

Rain on Us - Song, Brooklyn Tabernacle

Whatever your people have needed
You said in your word Lord You supply
Now we're standing here today
Wanting you to have your way
Your people now are calling
Let the rain on us start falling
Send down the rain
Rain on us Holy Spirit
Rain on us in our soul
While we're standing here
Come on and send the Holy Ghost
Rain on us, rain on us
Rain on us in our soul

Copyright Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, 1993 StowTown Records

Discovering and following a path with the Spirit of Jesus has always been with the people, not with institutional or theological leaders. Yes, Martin Luther translated the Bible, but it was the people who read it that made the Reformation. Yes, it was Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. who led and preached to our nation, but it was the people who stood up, faced racism head-on, and forced change.

The Son of God walked the streets in common clothes in dirty sandals. While he did teach in the temples, anyone could debate with him on the temple steps or by Jacob's well in Samaria. Jesus was accessible to everyone, even the ones the Hebrews despised. While the Temple leaders hid God behind a curtain that no commoner could cross, only the top Temple leadership could go. God rebuked the leadership by making Himself flesh, born into poverty, raised as a refugee, and stated his mission was for the poor. The temple leadership was not honored by God but was rejected. God bypassed proud leadership then and does the same now.

During His teachings, the elite in business, politics, and religion turned their backs on God, who was pleading with his people to love one another. True to form, entitlement and selfishness will do anything to hide and protect their dirty deeds, so they justified killing Jesus. As for the religious leaders, they knew they had no true relationship with the God, yet they sacrificed animals for a great profit. So to defend their dark hearts, they plot to kill Jesus. The power-hungry, greedy, and entitled will never understand the Spirit of Jesus because one cannot believe or understand what one opposes. Even the Old Testament prophets and Psalms all warn against the pursuit of wealth and power. For this reason, Jesus taught and healed the poor because only the hungry and humble could understand and embrace a Gospel of love. When one has nothing, the only thing of value is love. It is the poor that will spread the Gospel of Love.

All the Great Awakenings have their grass roots in the poor and downtrodden. Because they are hungry to hear. Missional expansion in Arab countries and oppressed places like China thrives not in huge megachurches but in small groups, much as the spread of the Gospel did in the first 300 years of Christianity. Even today, there are small groups containing walks from multiple Christian sects and races who come together to pray and study the Gospel. Our God is the God of the people. The Holy Spirit responds to the hungry at heart who listen and is silent to those who don't. While the establishment yelled at Jesus to come down from the cross. He never did for them 2026 years ago, nor will He now. In contrast, billions who seek a relationship with their creator through the Spirit of Jesus are touched by Him every second of every day, anywhere on planet Earth.

Jesus has always been about "We the people." Each one of us is his child, like the prodigal child running home to be in Dad's arms. The story of the prodigal child is one of the Father who rejoices when the child, fallen from grace, living with pigs, returns because he missed

the love of his father. The entitled son is affronted and does not get it. Feeling one deserves to be blessed materially because of the work the son does not understand the blessing of love that comes from mercy and grace.

Entitlement's value system holds that whoever has the most power deserves it. This is the value system of Spencer Darwinism: "Survival of the fittest." Live in a world that not only does not understand grace and mercy, but also opposes them. Case in point is that Herbert Spencer's"survival of the fittest" warped view of Darwin's theories enabled colonial oppression and exploitation of non-whites and was foundational to Nazi genocide. Academia and the elite could not, and cannot, grasp the Spirit of Jesus because their core values oppose Him.

The self-made man does not need mercy and grace for those they feel are weak and deserve their suffering. Jesus sees the poor as those hungry for his help and guidance. Jesus sees the entitled as the rebellious, greedy children. When one gives to the grateful, they say thanks and help others. If Jesus blessed the greedy, they would only say that I deserve the blessing without gratitude. Greed only knows how to take.

Jesus only heals the humble poor. The Rabbi must walk with Jesus as he goes about healing people, reaching the Rabbi's daughter. The Roman soldier travels to find Jesus, who is humbled to have his son healed. Peter heals the beggar at the temple door while the Temple leadership is deaf to what Peter teaches in denial about what they see. Hunger and suffering are receptive to help, while the self-made entitled remain blind and deaf. Elitism distrusts anything that deals with love and mercy. How can the judgmental grasp the value of God's mercy?

> *Luke 9; NIV*
>
> ***The Cost of Following Jesus***
> *57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."*
> *58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*
> *59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."*
> *60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*
> *61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."*
> *62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

Whether it’s after the big tent revival or boring church sermon, people go home, get undressed for bed, and it's just them and the universe’s Creator. Some cry out to be saved from the life they live, and others just go to sleep.

Jesus is God made accessible to the common people. Your walk with the Spirit of Jesus is a one-to-one sharing experience wrapped in all humility and gratefulness. No one can take that away from you, so don’t give it away by surrendering to the ways of the world.

We need not judge the entitled. We pray for their souls and strive to help them love one another. Because the ungrateful, judgmental, entitled soul condemns themselves to an eternal death of nothing. There is no reward for those who steal from their Father. However, for those who love, eternity and community are theirs forever.

Let Thy Will be My Will

Hosea 6:6 NIV
6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Many churches support food banks, immigration services, adult learning centers, and Gospel Rescue Missions. Jump in, no matter what your skills, and mission work will transform you while transforming the downtrodden and oppressed. So don't be quick and throw the baby out with the bath water. Pray to do God's will, and he will guide you to supply a need. The best way to build a relationship is to work with Him while he serves His people.

Think about what Jesus would prefer: worshiping a stained glass window or helping an abused mother and child find a safe haven. Here, Jesus warns us to stay in His Father God's Loving Will.

Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

I Never Knew You
21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven,
but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast
out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'
23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you;
depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

"Your will be done" through us requires significant internal changes, ample guidance, and time. Just like becoming great at sports or anything else, we must learn new things, be willing to change, and practice a lot. Once we open up to humility, change in who we are in the process of sanctification can begin. That process requires listening to the Divine will's guidance by changing who we are, how we think, feel, and believe. Even with Saul of Tarsus' radical experience on the road to Damascus to persecute the Christians, he later changed his name to Paul, meaning small, and invested years of hiding while learning from the Apostles who knew Jesus personally. Divine help does transform; however, it takes us time to learn how to live with that transformation. I will say this, that transformation is not a boring process.

Just as learning from any great coach, our thoughts and movement begin to mirror the coach. First, we are guided to be merciful and loving to the people around us. Then all we need is a nudge, and after a while, it is who we are. Knowing God's will is a matter of training and spiritual guidance from within. Then there is the unpredictable. Chances are you are heading in in that direction now, and the Holy Spirit will place you on many different paths. Because

we grow in Love and trust for the Holy Spirit's guidance, we begin to know His voice. Even when it doesn't make sense, or we don’t want to.

The dogmatic say “Let thy will be done.” To instruct God to somehow fix the mess we created. We do not demand God to do things for us like spoiled children. Closer to the truth, and more likely to get results would be: “Let thy Will work through my will.” A humble prayer, “Use me Lord.” It would prove to be much more effective.

All Relationships Change Us

2 Timothy 2:21 NIV
Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Spiritual learning and transformation are transcendental and different from intellectual or social change. Spiritual sanctification changes who we are to the core, not just what we know. Social and political relationships change us at one level. However, living with the Holy Spirit within us changes us on all levels. When we join a new group, company, or even a marriage, we alter our behaviors to be accepted. We can see gaps between the type of person we are and how we behave. Technically, it's called cognitive dissonance. You and I know it as faking it. There is no faking it, no place to hide, and no lies with Jesus. We are either all in or out with the Creator.

A relationship with Jesus is a spiritual apprenticeship that evolves over time. There is no diploma, title, or certificate, only a bond with eternity, with a path you could never have imagined. First, you will need to unlearn how institutions taught you to learn.

How we change depends on what we learn and how fast we learn it. In terms of a relationship, it will demand that we unlearn how the twisted world has raised us to ignore love. Let me explain. In K-12 and beyond, you were educated in a world based on facts that had to be memorized for a test and at the end of the semester. Even in our job compliance training, safety, job skills, and sexual harassment had to be passed with an 80% score. Even for the hospital MD to get their paycheck. This is all about “What” you were required to know to be competent for your Job. If your career requires a vast amount of knowledge, such as MDs, CPAs, and certain technical trades, the scope of what you need to know has become broader and more challenging. This is also true for seminary school. To receive a Master's or Doctorate in Divinity requires extensive testing and paper writing, all on an objective intellectual level, which, by the way, God’s Will is not. Ironically, what makes a great teacher, MD, EMS, or Nurse is if they really care about people. Something the objective tests can not uncover. Truth is contained in the “why” of things. Why do wars happen, why are wages kept in poverty, and why did Jesus do what he did?

The inherent flaw with pure intellectual learning is that it hides the “why” behind those facts or histories. One could learn the facts about civil war without knowing why such evil in the hearts of men to allow slavery existed, and how that evil character flaw still exists in today’s political gerrymandering and white supremacist politics. We can study crime statistics and ignore the emotional trauma of living in American poverty. An MBA can hide behind P&L spreadsheets and ignore employee minimum wage suffering and environmental destruction.

When we start asking why the underlying spiritual, emotional character plays get exposed in their motivations to deploy either creative, loving deeds or selfish, evil ones. When we ask why the motivations of personalities become exposed.

All Ivy League schools have history classes that cover the Holocaust, which cover the numbers and processes that took place. And yet when contemporary Israeli builds a Nazi-like Ghetto of Arabs (Gaza) for seven decades or build four concentration camps complete with torture and starvation, the history department of IVY League schools remained detached in the intellect, saying nothing. In many ways, academia's intellectual objectivism detaches them from the depths of human experience. When I was doing turnarounds for corporations and dot-coms, the biggest problem was always that intellectual arrogance would overlook the human element beyond their spreadsheets. The spreadsheet has people behind it, and if you do not understand the people part, the numbers are just wishful thinking.

In seminary school, religious leaders get lost in grammatical analysis of definitions and the history behind scripture. There is value in knowing the sexual behavior of the Corinthians in biblical times, but that does not explain why Paul said what he said. History is the study of what happened and skips over why it happened. Why events happen because of narcissists, sexual, financial, and power addiction is more important. And then why Paul's advice to get back on track of loving one another is the lesson to be learned. Paul's guidance to take care of one another in Holy/loving ways because we love Jesus as we love our neighbor is why we should act differently. If Paul had just laid down rules and new laws for the church, people would have just broken them. People's hearts only change when they have a reason to. Simply put, loving people do not do the same things as unloving people. Moral laws are meant to be broken by the unloving. Character transformation by the Holy Spirit changes who we are, resulting in changing all sorts of behavior.

Case in point. I had a client who did healthcare hospital compliance training on sexual harassment that is required by law. A competitor training company offers a cheap page-turning course with a quick quiz at the end. The hospital MDs resented the time wasted on the cheap course and went on harassing the RNs anyway. MDs knew the state laws; they just did not care. A few compliance attorneys privately complained to me that this training made things worse. My client showed the MDs actor video training with many grey-area scenarios that were uncomfortable and sparked debates among the staff about whether it was harassing the RNs. Some scenes were technically legal; however, they were obviously morally wrong. After the video, they would set up a meeting between the nursing staff and the MDs, which became very emotional. In each meeting, the MDs were moved and walked away aware that what they thought was funny was hurting their staff in deep ways; that also made the hospital unsafe for patients, with upset nurses and support staff. When we are exposed to why a behavior is right or wrong on an emotional level, it creates positive change.

I am writing all this to warn you that carrying around a Bible does not make one a Christian, and memorizing the entire thing does not make you a Christian. Parroting key phrases will not make you a Christian. A loving relationship and an apprentice with the Spirit of Jesus in your heart is what makes you a Christian. The experience of "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" is what makes people Christians. For those people, their entire lives are transformed into the daily experience of growth amid change. Yes, we stumble and maybe backslide, but that is just the process of growing in Christ. Pick yourself up. Apologize and try to do better next time. Your Father understands growing up takes time..

In fear of God. Autocrats and religious leaders leverage these scriptures to make their people fear the institution and its leaders. This is false doctrine. Dogmatics have people fear their sin and must repent to the institution, and its leaders are not the type of fear our Father God wants. Father God does not want you living in a life of shame. When we rebel (sin) against God, we lose His attention and blessings. The Bible says, "Do not grieve the Lord." How can a good father give more money to a youth who will go drinking and drive the family car into a tree? God loves us and wants to bless us, but if we are reckless with His love, we block Him from His guidance. If we refuse to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, He will wait till we are ready to receive. We need not fear that God will punish us, because our rebellion punishes us; we convict ourselves. What we should fear is the loss of his Love, attention, protection, and blessing. Our free will to love God and neighbors also allows us to be selfish and to care only about ourselves. God may still love us, but selfishness blocks that love and protection. That blocking of God's love is something to fear, the same way that the thought of losing someone you love dearly is something to be feared. When we lose a friend, child, or spouse, that loss is deeply painful. Loss of love is part of life, yet feared.

Humility is the foundation of our relationship with our Father God, based on learning through our walk with the Holy Spirit. Like an Olympic swimmer humbly accepting the advice of their coach after each swim. Humility does not make us weaker; it makes us stronger.

When we have a deep relationship with the Son of God, Jesus, we begin to see and treat the world as He does. In doing so, we behave differently from the world around us.

Leviticus 19:34 Berean Standard Bible

Keep My Decrees

33 When a foreigner resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him.
34 You must treat the foreigner living among you as native-born and love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

The Process of Sanctification

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!

A walking, talking relationship with the Holy Spirit sanctifies us, making us more Holy. Think of sanctification as a process of purifying the muck from our lives. It certainly is easily faked by titles or robes. Of course, many Christian Nationals hid behind a phrase like “born again” to tell others, “I am right and you are wrong, anything I do is forgiven, or I am doing this racist act because it is God’s will.” Dogmatic use of sanctification is dangerous, from the level of the Crusades butchery to the priest refusing to marry a couple because one comes from another Christian sect. Dogmatic use of sanctification can be nothing more than a mask of ignorance.

No brass cup with grape juice or priest blessing can sanctify a person; that is witchcraft. Only our love for God and God’s love for us work in a relationship. Sanctification is a very humble work in progress that never ends as we walk through life. There is no title or self-proclaimed phrase that defines it. No graduation date. It is simply an evolutionary process. It's best not to use the noun "sanctification "; use the verb "sanctify". We remain imperfect yet getting better; we do have the perfect working /loving Will of the Holy Spirit in us.

However, simply becoming a more loving person and benefiting family, friends, and community is progress. What sanctification is, is the Love of our Creator through Jesus Christ shining through us. The person who is the light of the Lord does not have to claim they are superior and sanctified because it is evident in who they have become and how they serve the world.

In order to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit of the Creator, one must gain eyes that see and ears that hear. Christian life is not based on laws; it is based on love. When we choose a relationship with Jesus, we become more loving, and our behavior naturally sets us apart from the real world. Like Jesus, we are still physically of this world; however, spiritually we become freed from its evil ways. You need to want to change everything, both inside and out.

The prayer for sanctification is: “Father, I need you now. Change me, whatever you need to do to make me a servant of your Love.”

Sanctification happens when we let God have His way through us.

The Unpredictable - No Straight Path

Matthew 7:13-14 ESV
"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.
For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

John 14:6 ESV
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

While dogmatic rituals, sacraments, and prayer curriculum offer dogmatic paths to sanctification, there is no such straight path with rights of passage or higher degrees. It is the Divine Love of the Holy Spirit that flows personally through each individual. Spiritual transformation is highly personal, individualized and unpredictable. Only the Holy Spirit knows what is needed for each of life's experiences. Our path is our purpose in life to love one another. Partnered with God's will, life takes a thousand unpredictable and often untimely turns. It is the life experiences across all traditions that change us. When old folks see a young couple get married in a wonderful ceremony, we know the ceremony does not make the marriage; it's the millions of unpredictable choices they must master as they walk through life together. Their love for one another must carry them through all the dirty diapers, budget crunches, broken cars, and broken teenage hearts. Just as marriage to a spouse is a daily process that transforms us, so it is with the Christian with the Holy Spirit in their heart. There is no beginning or end, only the path together.

James 1:5 ESV
If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
who gives generously to all without reproach,
and it will be given him.

No one event or phrase of baptism solidifies our relationship. With our Lord Jesus. Yes, John Wesley's right, there are opportunities for sanctification. Think of hugs or handshakes when meeting a friend. This is about holding a tearful spouse or child going through great loss, or rejoicing in a wonderful win. Traditions are affirmations of the loving relationship. Like blowing on coals of fire or a cool glass of water on a hot day. Events awaken our awareness of the blessings and rich experiences life has to offer us. Life is all a gift from our Creator, and we are his gifts to the world. When Jesus walked the streets, each place was a different lesson, a different healing, a new reason to love the world.

So you see, attending church 45 minutes once a week does not make one a Christian. It is a great time for the community of Christ to come together and celebrate their blessings and

relationships with the Creator through Jesus Holy Spirit. Is it who we are after we walk into the parking lot to go home and go to work? Being a Christian is how we love and behave in the world. Jesus tells us this in. John

John13:35
"By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
<u>if</u> *you have love for one another."*

The evangelism that sticks is when others witness the love within their Christian communities and want to be part of it. It is when they want to leave a world of suffering and empty selfishness and enter a world of loving mercy. People need to witness the evidence of people changing for the better. People need a body of Christ that does not make them feel alone but valued and loved. There is nothing that can be bought or sold, only a love to be fully embraced.

James 1:2-4 ESV
Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Move Reflection into Prayer

John 17:20-23
Jesus Prays for All Believers
20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Reflection is a one-way street, looking inside. Often, reflection is worrying about or regretting the past. How can madness possibly fix madness? How does our preconceived prejudice ever find the truth? Prayer is when we sincerely bring our problems and praises to our Father God. The Holy Spirit intercedes for the humble at heart who are willing to listen and accept the truth. However, prayer is different from reflection or contemplation. In prayer, we listen for guidance at the moment, and in faith, we know the answers eventually show themselves. Our Father God cherishes the opportunity to listen to us, no matter what the reason.

Revelation 5:8 NLT
And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

I would like you to move your reflections to prayer. It is all too easy for reflection to drown in a sea of regret and guilt. The Holy Spirit wants to save you from such things. In prayer come grace, mercy, forgiveness, and guidance. Reflection is limited by the problem at hand and the human, and evil, misguidance that got you there. Father God does not want you to beat yourself up, though repenting does come in handy. It can also be a quiet time with the Holy Spirit, loving and guiding you to places you could not have imagined. If you surrender to His Guidance, prayer can deliver you to wonderful moments. Reflection comes front and center during desperate times. I have had my fair share of dark hours of the soul when I cried out, "Jesus please save me. This is way too big. I see no way out." In every case, the improbable became a problem. Not in some flash in the pan or parting of the Red Sea, but in a series of inconceivable choices and opportunities I could not see at the time. What is interesting about walking with the Lord is that the answers often do not make any sense and come out of the blue. Why? Because in dark moments we just can't see and need help to open our eyes.

> My time living at the Gospel Rescue Mission was drawing to a close. While relieving a brother washing dishes in the kitchen, the Mission Director came up to me and asked, “Do you have a passport?” I said yes. I wonder where this came from. He said, “Good, it will take ten days for the malaria medicine to kick in. You're going to Zambia with our team in two weeks. The board was praying, and three people heard we should send you.” I told him I did not have the money for such a trip. He followed up with “We know you don’t, but somehow the Lord will pay it back.

Now we all know this is not how people enter the mission field. However, that trip and a return trip helped create my “Beatitudes” photograph book of the Sons of Thunder Zambia mission, which helped donate a 44-foot container of medical equipment to their small clinic, which then received a grant from the Gates Foundation and later built a birthing clinic that delivers about a baby a day. To say that none of this was foreseeable or that my plan is an understatement. It is with eyes wide open and a humble heart that the Holy Spirit steps in. No matter how improbable and scary it may be. Prayer brings directions when you least expect them. My simple prayer while washing dishes was “Lord, what do I do now?” The answer completely altered the trajectory of my life.

This is not an easy relationship, no relationships are. All relationships take work. It is filled with questions, tragedies, and special moments. One thing is promised, life with Jesus not a boring way to live. While many spend their final days on earth, drowning in regrets of things they never did. The ones filled with the Spirit of Christ wish they could have done more had the world only listened. That's OK because the Holy Spirit feels the same.

Had Israel’s leaders and people not misinterpreted what a Messiah was, ignored the healings, and filtered out His teaching, the Jesus whose only crime was to love them would not have been crucified. Yet this is life on earth, where the deaf and blind oppress and kill the holy and the good.

Toward the end of Jesus' life, before he goes into Jerusalem on a donkey, he reflects over Jerusalem and cries.

Luke 18:41—42

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,
42 saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!
But now they are hidden from your eyes.

The Holy Spirit of Jesus loves you deeply and desires your companionship more than you can imagine. What elderly father does not rejoice in a call from his children? In all things, pray and talk to your Loving Father God.

Matthew 6:5-15 NIV

Prayer

5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans,
for they think they will be heard because of their many words.
8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 "This, then, is how you should pray:
"'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

10 your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

The Value of Praise

Acts 2:46
And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes,
they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

When we see an old friend, we light up and say something like “It is so great to see you.” Love does its fireworks. It’s a great feeling. That is praise. Praise is a gratefulness for a loving relationship. Bowing to authority is not praise; it is slavery. Praise is like blowing the coals to start a fire. Bowing to authority is pouring water on coals to be stomped out.

In no place in the Bible does Jesus tell his followers to bow down to him. Jesus asks for grace and love. In His last supper, He did not have to have the Apostles bow to Him. In contrast, he washes their feet and shares dinner with them. When we love someone, there is no question of why Jesus focused on teaching the poor. Wouldn’t it make more sense to heal the rich and powerful who could help him build his movement or even an army? The reason that does not make sense is that entitlement and greed are twin sisters. When entitlement receives a blessing, such as a windfall, their way of thinking is: I got this profit because I deserve it. The idea of trickle-down economics is the grand lie for the ignorant. When wealth sees profit, it hordes it because it perceives it deserves it. To the elite, knowledge is power to be hoarded and protected.

Now, if a grateful baker has left over bread at the end of the day, they may give it to the poor. When the market worker or cotton picker has been blessed by loving people who took them in out of love. They will spread that love to others for free. Greed hordes praise nothing but more money. Jesus teachings to love one another are expressed and amplified by the community's love. When we invest our time with other loving people, it is time well spent. A loving community can be trusted and creates a protective bubble from a selfish and greedy world. Loving Christians could be trusted in both trade or locating a spouse who will faithfully cared. Raising kids in a loving community also has its benefits.

Finding a loving community has the same benefits today as it did back in Jesus' time. But today we have greater challenges in finding and keeping one. Back in Jesus time, there was one church that soon became fragmented. Today, there are many sectarian churches that function in tribal and unloving ways. Some are laced with political racism, cultural classism, and dogmatic divisions. Jesus would have none of this. There is only one Christian community: the one that loves one another and the world. If your community is divisional, it is not of Christ, and you need to find one that is. If you can’t find one, you are free to start one. All you need is a Bible, a friend, and the love of Jesus to do so.

Humility is a core value that drives gratitude and good manners. When we teach our children good manners, it sinks in, extending beyond gratitude to a personality trait like humility. Bowing down when kings came into town was an act of oppressive authority. Good manners give good praise for deeds well done. Yes, a simple “thank you” gives praise by gratitude.

Jesus does check in on his followers by saying, “Do you know who I am?” but never to bend a knee or kiss a ring. Jesus seeks a love for them the same way He loves them. Jesus seeks a relationship at the dining table and not by cowardly submission. I point these things out because praise has its roots in loving humility. People praise power because they want power. People offer spiritual praise because they are grateful for the gifts God gives. Spiritual praise is giving thanks. False praise is bowing down out of fear.

Toward the end, when Jesus came into Jerusalem, He was met with praise and cheers. Praise is a proclamation of love and appreciation. The Gospel is about how we love Jesus for who He is and what He has done. Praise is honoring our relationship with the Son of God, who brings us life and saves us from our follies. Praise is rejoicing in what He has done, is doing, and will do in our lives. In this way, praise is an act of humility in accepting His loving guidance. Spiritual praise asks the Holy Spirit to transform us each day so we can do more.

Sometimes our lives spin out of control into very dark hours. Usually from our own folly, but sometimes from injustice. At these times, we drop onto our knees, throwing ourselves at God's feet. We cry out that we have fallen short and need the help of an all-powerful God to help us out of this pit. Yes, repentance is a form of groveling praise; however, it is not cowardice. True repentance is out of our trust for a loving God to forgive and save us. Praise of our Creator and loving friend is woven into the entire process. Like when a child who falls off their bike cries out to their loving parent. Woven into the cry is the trust that they will come to the rescue. We have faith that the parents will come because we know they love us.

Praise comes from rejoicing or crying out to loving Father God, no matter what format it takes. Whether going through prosperity or desperation, grateful praise is always music to a loving Father.

The Value of Community

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord

Keeping Love Flowing in a Cruel and Robotic World

During COVID, many minimum wage retail workers went to work despite the risks. I would say, “Hey thank you for showing up.” One could see that a little act brightens their day every time.

> There is no love in getting someone a cup of coffee unless you put your heart into it.

Counter waitresses in diners watch the long line of lonely people get a cup of coffee and a cheap meal all day long. Often, you hear before you even sit down. “What can I get you dear?” And they look at you. If done right, they feel like mom recognizing you had a bad day at school from the long face. There is usually a brief chat about the weather, family, or menu advice. The diner is not just about a slice of pie; it is about a slice of humanity. Partway through the meal might be an “You OK or hows the kids.” My point here is that it is a two-way street of kindness that relies heavily on the tone and hearts of each person in the engagement. Waitresses in these establishments live a hard life, and they keep on plugging away at it. They understand the hard life of the souls before them.

> In my first marriage, I worked many a late night and was never brought a cup of coffee or heard "thank you" after cooking dinner for my wife, but the kids did. One night, my 8-year-old daughter walked up the stairs with a cup of coffee. When she left, I cried. No matter how busy I was, I would always tell my kids bedtime stories. For my daughter, I would ask her what type of animal she would like to be and would make up a moral story about it. Now much older as a teacher of special needs, she grasps what an act of magic and love those stories were. Of course, watching those big eyes fall asleep each night was my blessing beyond measure.

Again, it is not the mechanical task of placing a coffee on the counter or telling the story that matters. It is the loving, or unloving, intent that travels within the actions. For heaven on earth to blossom, loving gratefulness must come for both the server and the servant at the same time. When the traditions of a relationship loose grateful love, they die on the vine. The same is true for churches as it is for marriages. Daily chores are kept alive through gratefulness. The Roycrofts and the Shakers made such splendid furniture because their hearts were always in it. To the Shakers, they would make a simple chair with such grace that if an angel needed a place to sit, they would be blessed.

The Value of Manners

Colossians 3:12
"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

I worked in a Patisserie selling both fine desserts and donuts. The range of humanity was worth watching. While polite parents would tell their kids,"What do you say?" The Kids would respond with "thank you." Some kids would say it with drudgery or not at all. Others smile in great delight at the treat and yell "Thank you," out. In other cases, parents would steal a donut for the kids and themselves, stuff it in their mouths, and say they would paid at the checkout. We would also find open packages of donuts throughout the store. What was evident to the ungrateful ones was that they hardly enjoyed the donut. They would mostly stuff it in their mouth as soon as possible to satisfy their greed or sugar addiction. But there would also be the guiding parent who would instruct the child, "Wait, we must pay for it before eating it." Those kids seem to take their time with their dessert, trying to make it last. I knew those kids and would give them free cookies when available. Some of them would nibble them around the edges, making them last as long as possible.

Good manners work in so many wonderful ways. A child with good manners gets special treatment by adults and more rewards. Later, as adults, good manners are the way others can tell if they can trusted. This is because people who do not bother with manners, like introductions or shaking hands, are selfish and do not want to be bothered with such pleasantries. Manners at the table indicate whether someone thinks about what they are doing and does not rush. People with good manners are also good listeners, not only willing to learn but also caring about others' experiences. What we learn in time is that people with bad manners simply do not care about anyone but themselves. It can also be because they were raised to be afraid and distrustful.

Good manners require a level of gratefulness and respect for the people around us. Gratefulness has us pause to look and listen to what is going on around us. Manners are also a way to express our gratitude to the people around us, from a parent providing dinner to a helpful store clerk. Tiny things like opening the door for someone at a gas station or getting a high item off a shelf for the short lady are huge acts of love.

Open up to the Holy Spirit

John 14:26
"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Jesus designed the Last Supper for the devoted, the innocents, the uneducated, and for those who hunger and thirst for the Love of God. So you are worthy. Crave the Holy Spirit more than anything else.

Everyone has the seeds of the Holy Spirit in them. The Holy Spirit is in all our spiritual DNA. However, like learning to walk and talk, it has to be pursued and exercised to surface. We must ask Jesus for guidance. The Olympic skier has the genetic ability, and yet it takes a ton of guidance, passion, and practice to win gold. Be not discouraged; we do not need to be champions of spirituality. The ability to be a loving father or mother is good enough. The ability to be a loving teacher or policeman is ingrained in us. To make those gifts flourish, it takes focus, passion, and practice to make that plan within us blossom. In every case, we help and support in discovering our calling. Do we fail and fall on those paths, of course, many times? Sometimes everything falls apart to such an extent that we can't go on, and the dark hour of our soul comes. When the voice of the Evil One whispers into us that we are losers who will never succeed. That is why Evil will is called a lair.

The thing is, the seeds of Holiness we are born with need the water and light of Jesus to fully blossom in the relationship with the Holy Spirit. It is only the will of Jesus Holy Spirit that can make that happen. No Human can. We must open up and ask to the depths of our soul to awaken that Holy relationship. No human can command the Holy Spirit to obey; no sacrament can force sanctification, only love..

Humility provides the Holy Spirit a space to work with us and fill us with His Divine Love. Humility gives the Spirit the license to change everything inside of us, you are more than worthy.

Galatians 5:22-23
"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

No institution can do this for us. No pastor, priest, or prayer band leader can command or give us this gift. We must open up the core of our being with an unquenchable thirst for Jesus Holy Spirit to enter us. It is hard to admit that we would block divine Love from entering and guiding us, but we do. This is why, in dark times when all our efforts fail, when all seems hopeless, that time when we give up and let go, does crying out for Jesus' help come in a mighty wind.

In an upper room, Jesus' followers gathered in terrified fear, desperately praying for help from a Jesus they had just seen crucified. At any moment, the Temple guards could burst through the doors, placing them all on their own cross. However, when the Holy Spirit hears the cries of desperate humility, willing to give up everything, the Holy Spirit sweeps into the room with a baptism by fire. Then filled with the Holy Spirit, they walked into the streets praising and preaching the Gospel of Jesus. They were untouched by either Rome or the Hebrew leadership.

Don’t look for an institution to save you; only Jesus does that. Prior to Jesus, John the Baptist was baptizing people in water to join the community of Christians and a faith in Jesus. Baptism was used by the Jews as a public conversion into the community and laws of the Hebrews. It was not a baptism of the Holy Spirit that way many claim it is today.

Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The Value of Prayer

1 John 5:14
"This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

The reason we give thanks in prayer for all things, great and small, is that a grateful heart is always open to life's blessings. What a wonderful way to spend our limited days on earth.

If we go to church each Sunday, sit 12 feet apart, mumble through the songs, and just sit there thinking about the drudgery and problems of the week, we not only kill the purpose of going for ourselves, but also for our fellow followers. Just like a divorce, the effort of going to church stops, so we stop going. If we do not feel love at church, we no longer see or hear God's presence there. Gratefulness is a recognition that love is at work. Without gratefulness, the church no longer works. Appropriately, we call this falling away from the church. It is the falling from the light of love into loneliness or darkness. The drudgery of daily living spills over into the same rituals of the church, everything so perfectly timed and predictable. In contrast, the Holy Spirit is unpredictable and does everything in His time. Love fills our lives with mystery and surprises.

Prayer is so simple. Just have an honest discussion from the heart. Sometimes the simple plea "Father I need you now." Just be straightforward. "Father you know Daniel has cancer. Please guide the hearts and hands of all the healthcare providers. You know your servants, please send one into his room to comfort him when he is afraid or lonely. I am your servant Lord guide me on what to do. Teach me what to say to comfort his family." Then sit for a while, called waiting on the Lord. See what images come to mind of what to do. Even a discussion with the Holy Spirit giving you a nudge to call someone.

It is not the pastor's responsibility for the church to pray over one another and the world; it is the congregation's. It is not the pastor's responsibility for the people to love one another; it is the congregation's.

Rejoice in Love

John 4:24 NIV
24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

We give loud praise in defiance of all Evil's will to break our spirit in the sewer of media and social disbelief. We are gonna party with Jesus.

Who does not rejoice in meeting a long-lost friend? Rejoice in the Lord because he is the oldest best friend who will never fail you that you have ever had. We stand and cheer at football and basketball events. Rejoicing is standing and cheering for the God who created and conquers everything in the universe of universes. Stand and cheer for Christ Jesus, who conquered death and all evil with the Gospel that can heal the world of its suffering.

Just as there are two types of religious writers: those who speak about" God, Spirit, and Jesus from an objective distance, and those who speak about the day we will meet our Maker. And other writers who, with the presence of the Holy Spirit in them, write about the living Spirit of God available for everyone in the here and now. Styles of hymns and gospel music are also on separate tracks. Some are poetic, praising God in heaven with the faith that he will one day come. Other praise (predominantly Gospel) sings of a working, living Spirit as a here-and-now relationship in intimate partnership with the Christian. As pointed out earlier, the Christian with a living relationship with the Holy Spirit in their heart is the Born-Again Christian. As pointed out in the chapter on eyes that see and ears that hear praises, music is about the working relationship between the flawed human and the Divine God, mediated by the Holy Spirit. In born-again gospel music, there is no gap between the creator and the created. Instead, there is praise to give thanks and strengthen the relationship that a cruel world is constantly challenging. Plantation music is like that because the Holy Spirit was working with them right in the hot fields.

Ears that hear enjoy praise that highlights the witness of living with the Holy Spirit within oneself. Gospel is a time to come together and share in the struggles and work that come with a relationship with the Creator's loving work. If you grew up Catholic or Episcopal, the singing of the Gospel came as a strange experience. Many in the higher church mock the gospel's intimate experience with the Holy Spirit, because that is what they lack. While I have objectively heard gospel at a distance many times, it was at a Tuesday night prayer session at Brooklyn Tabernacle, with 3,000 people of every race, that completely blew me away. The congregation's love for one another, along with the palpable presence of God's love for them and their love for Him, shattered all my perceptions of Christianity. I had invested 30 years searching for that legendary beast, cosmic consciousness, tasted Samadhi, and could perform a Hindi puja in Sanskrit. I thought I knew it all, and yet it all fell away in dust from the sweet innocence of that room. Jesus was right. We cannot perfect ourselves to

come into the presence of God. The eastern way to enlightenment is impossible. The dirty little secret is that while Eastern religion can produce some truly wonderful people, nobody is reaching cosmic consciousness. However, a God of perfection will come not only down but within us simply because He loved us first. I had it all wrong; we do not strive to reach enlightenment. Enlightenment will come down to us if we let it.

Just imagine a beautiful theatre singing with all the races of the world who share in the experience of living with the indwelling Holy Spirit. The sound is not like a Gregorian chant (that I love), getting lost in the rafters. The sound and meaning of the words merge into a shared experience that moves both inside us and within our neighbors. Even while singing, there are times when we say, “Lord teach me to pray and sing.” There are times when prayer (a dialogue between God and us, aided by the Holy Spirit of Jesus) merges with singing. It is time when out of sheer joy we join not in what we may hope will come but what is here and now living within us.

Gospel Music

"Rain on Us" - Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

Rain on us Holy Spirit
Rain on us in our souls
While we're standing here
Come on and send the Holy Ghost
And rain on us
Rain on us
Rain on us in our soul

The slaves of America who were stripped of everything still could acquire the creator of everything through secret Bible meetings at night, the songs that were taught in the fields while working, along with their commitments to the Holy Spirit in river baptisms.

Here are two examples of Old Gospel music. Keep in mind, it is called Gospel music because it teaches and proclaims the living teachings of Jesus. How ironic that the slaves inherited an eternity of God's on being set free by death, and the conservative slave owners were stripped of everything upon their death. Even though the owners went to church every Sunday and dutifully sang from their hymnals. Because they did not do the Father's will, which is to love one another, Jesus would deny them. Then again, Rome tore down the Temple of the Jews, and after all that, the church and self-righteousness Dixi also burned down.

Here are two popular Gospel songs worth listening to on YouTube Charle A Miles,1913

1. I come to the garden alone,
   While the dew is still on the roses,
   And the voice I hear falling on my ear
   The Son of God discloses.

    - *Refrain:*
      And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
      And He tells me I am His own;
      And the joy we share as we tarry there,
      None other has ever known.

2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice
   Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
   And the melody that He gave to me
   Within my heart is ringing.

3. I'd stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

"The Good Old Way" Slave song. Author unknown.
Originally Published Stave Songs of the United State 1867 In 1880 The Jubilee Singers
Published this version.

As I went down in the valley to pray,
Studying about that good old way;
You shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way.
By-and-by we'll all go down, all go down, all go down,
By-and-by we'll all go down,
Down in the valley to pray

The Personality of the Holy Spirit

John 14:16
I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

John 14:26
But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name,
He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 15:26
“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father,
that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

John 16:7
But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away;
for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Acts 1:8
but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Your are a person because the one who created you is a person, and the Holy Spirit is a person.

In all great novels and movies, the hero evolves and grows through the challenges of life, or the script. We emphasize that process. However, the personality of Jesus never ever changes in books and letters of the Bible because perfection has already arrived before it starts. It is interesting that the personality and teaching of Jesus are not only consistent from the beginning to the end of his ministry but also between all four Gospels and the letters that follow. While writers emphasize different aspects of his ministry, Jesus' personality remains consistent.

In our action movies, the superhero conquers everyone in the end. Yet in the Bible, Jesus is crucified, and his followers run and hide. The end of his life on earth becomes the beginning of Jesus' spiritual life on earth. A life no empire can conquer, the defeat of oppressors. In reality,, the story of Jesus' life is the story of eternity becoming.

This consistency of His teaching to love one another, found between the books and letters, is mysteriously in sync with those who experience the presence of Jesus today. If one receives thoughts to do something that conflicts with the teachings of the Bible (such as cheating on a spouse or in a business deal), chances are one is listening to the wrong voice.

In the ever-changing and ever-evolving cosmic universe, Love is the only transcendental force that is consistent and omniscient. Jesus does not change because he is the Son of God, and God is Love. Love is eternally unchanging.

> Love is a consistent, the same, and eternal force. Jesus was/is that in the flesh and Spirit.
>
> Every deed Jesus did and teaching he gave was out of His Divine Love for "All nations" of the earth.

Jesus was a king of the spirit who never needed temples, armies, territories, wealth, or anything physical. God needs nothing because God is everything. This is why Jesus does not ask for physical sacrifices; He only asks for our loving relationship. Material business, religious, and political leaders who are based on narcissistic greed could not grasp what Jesus was teaching or what God asks of them. So they killed him. Only that made him stronger, invincible, and unreachable for the corrupt.

John 18:

35 Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

So if one wants to experience the meaning of life, one needs a relationship with spiritual Love itself on a personal level. That person is Jesus, who is God's Love made accessible. If you are searching for someone who will love you till the end of time, your Father God, through Jesus, is the one who does that. It is Jesus perfect Love that makes God accessible to us. No, you will not mystically cognize God in totality and knowledge, but you can have His Loving Will flowing through you, and that is more than enough.

Jesus Is…God Made Accessible

John 18:37
Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Intellect's excuse: "If Jesus was the son of God he would have gotten down from the cross."

Me: "The problem with your logic is that. He did come down. Fourteen times recorded by his followers in the Bible. Not to mention, He is in me right now. It is just not worth His time to waste on those who refuse to learn and mock him. What good coach or teacher would want to do that? You simply can't know about something or someone that you refuse to know.

Jesus told Pontius Pilate that he came to teach "the truth," so I guess Star Wars Senator Mathma is right:

"When truth is denied, Evil Wins."

What is Sin

James 4:17 ESV
17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

"If you err it is not for me to punished you. We are punished by our sins not for them."
- Elbert Hubbard, The Notebook

Forget what you learned in Sunday school about sin. On the material level of life, breaking the limits of physical laws brings physical consequences. Try flying a plane outside the envelope it is designed to operate within, and it will either break or stall and fall. Nobody can either change or cheat the laws of physics without consequences. On the spiritual level of our experience (Consciousness), there is one law that transcends all character development, values, and actions, that is to "love one another." The will of creation is Love; therefore, any soul, thought, or action that is anti-loving is a sin. While breaches in physical laws are instantaneous, the same is true of spiritual levels of life. So sin is not a preset or pre-agreed-upon set of social rules. Sin is anything that is anti-loving. That means all values, emotions, thoughts, and actions that defy being a loving soul. Racism is a terrible sin because its unloving nature sinks deep into the soul of a fool.

We have a phrase "Brake the law." The irony is that no one can actually break a law. I cannot break the law of gravity, so it no longer works. Sure, we can thrust and leverage other forces to move the object past gravity's pull. Yet the rocket still weighs what it weighs and must counteract gravity with more thrust. And yet thrust does not make gravity go away. It must work against it, the unbreakable gravity never goes away.

While physical existence is bound by the laws of time and space, our spiritual experience is not. One can think back in time and plan for the future. Physical revenge can be addressed by physical law. However, mental rebellion against the will of love can be hidden from the physical plane. Hence, we can lie, and our inner motivation can be hidden. A date can say I love you to entice the other into sex, while the inner motivation is entirely selfish and possessive. Breaking physical laws is measurable; however, the spiritual world is not measurable, or is it?

Jesus raises the bar on sin, too: if you think it, you do it. This brings shame to Israel's leaders by pointing out that their sins can not be hidden from their Father God.

John 8:7-9 NIV
7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last.

Mathew 5:28
"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully
has already committed adultery
with her in his heart."

Now our relationship with the Holy Spirit is wholly subjective spiritual. The thing about cosmic intelligence is that it knows the truth behind everything. The human may believe they can deceive the motives from the physical world, the world of crime (and corporate greed), but anything that is unloving is in breach of the loving Creator's cosmic will. There is nothing we can do to avoid the consequences of breaking the laws of physics. Humans can think their unloving ways go unseen and avoid consequences, but the truth is, they do not. When unloving deeds may have a pinch of consequences and guilt, it can be hidden from other humans. In the case of entitled or narcissistic souls, they can harden their hearts against guilt and come up with an internal lie to justify the deed. Classic case of this affluent executive and billionaire investors have no issue with traumatized workforces in poverty and without healthcare.

Contrary to our current administration behavior, no spokesperson, PR agency, super PAC, attorney, or Supreme Court can hide or protect the sins of the evil hearts from their Father God's judgment. And none of those enablers will be there to defend those souls at death's door. To hate or persecute God's children is indefensible at any level of existence.

While the Old Testament Hebrews had over 600 social laws about how people behaved, Jesus clarified and raised the bar of sin. Jesus basically teaches that if we think it, we do it. Jesus makes hiding from sin impossible. Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the judge of the spiritual level of existence. If either our character is unloving, our thoughts are unloving, or our deeds are unloving, we are living against the will of God. This deeply convicted the Hebrew leaders of the temple, whose hearts were unloving. Jesus even tells them that "I know you have no love in your hearts." In Jesus teachings, if you think it, you do it." The loving Jesus Holy Spirit actually grieves when we choose unloving thoughts and actions.

If you want to know if a choice is sinful or not, just ask yourself, better yet, pray and listen, "Is this a loving idea?" Chances are, if you have to ask, it is not. And many choices involve so many variables beyond our control, except for God, who can point the way. Hence, we rely on the advice and guidance of the Holy Spirit within us.

So, to avoid the sin of breaking the laws of physics, read the manuals. To avoid spiritual sin, obey the commandment "Love one another." Then again, for souls who love one another in the Holy Spirit, it is not a restrictive command; it is a way of life.

Simply put, Spiritual sin is to be unloving. However, beware: To attack those who love is what Evil is all about.

Our relationship walking with our Father Creator's Holy Spirit is Divine Love, developed by working through and refining our finite individual love with His greater Love. The more we love the world, the more we avoid sin and save others from sinning.

Ecclesiastes 9:18
Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Dealing with Sin

Romans 6:23
"For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"God is Love" 1 John 4:7-1. The act of creating out of Love is a manifestation of God's Will, of God. Creating is the Will of eternity to go on forever. When we choose to step out of the river of Love, eternity is no longer with us, and it ends. Life needs love to exist. Life needs God's Will to exist; without it, life dies. All addictions deal with the gratification of the self, and selfishness is not sustainable. There, the wages, consequences eternal, of selfishness are to unplug oneself from God's eternal Love. It is too disconnected from the force that sustains all life. It is God's Omniscient Love that sustains all life. To sin is to oppose Love. Selfishness opposes Selflessness with its loving nature.

All evil deeds run out of time. All evil is self-destructive and eventually comes to a bad end. Only Love is eternal. All people who choose Evil ways end up loveless and badly.

Dictators, wars, criminal and evil deeds all have their consequences and eventual end. All Evil dies. Wars come and go; however, the people in those countries keep having families, working, and building their communities. The river of God's will/Love is that life goes on.

The reason the Bible says For the wages of sin are death is not to condemn but to warn that partnering up with any evil act is partnering with a dead end. The supreme enemy of "Time" is that all evil deeds eventually come to an end.

A middle manager who is cruel to his employees eventually loses his job. The criminal goes to jail. The autocrat's reign ends badly and costs them dearly to maintain. The cruel spouse immediately loses a life with love, and later their spouse and kids. When the greedy, unloving soul dies, they are left with nothing, and all their effort to control their world passes in vain. For the racist or entitled, there is no heaven, no matter how many gallons of grape juice they consume or donate to the church.

Simply put, if one is not living a loving life, one is an anti-Christ (who is Love). Over and over in the scriptures it warns us, " If you have not love, you are nothing. Here is the Apostle Paul speaking.

So love the Lord do your best and don't worry about it. God's love forgives sin.

1 Corinthians 13

13 "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.?

Again, when reading the Bible, ask yourself why Paul would give this warning. Paul was once the son of a wealthy Temple businessman. He was then called Saul of Tarsus. His father, who bought Saul's Roman citizenship. Highly educated in the Temple, Saul was a Hebrew Zealot who persecuted, tortured, and even killed the followers of Jesus. He was also the one who, on the road to Damascus, was blinded by Jesus, who asked Saul 'Why are you persecuting me?" In Damascus, a poor man who heard from God restored Saul's sight and told him he was to preach the Gospel. After some time spent hiding in the desert and praying, he joins the Apostles in Jerusalem for four years, then starts preaching. Saul renames himself Paul, meaning small. It is Paul who takes Jesus' gospel to the Greeks and to Rome, and who writes almost half of what we know as the Bible. Paul is the most radical example of a conversion from business, religious, and political heartless arrogance to the spread of a gospel of love, preached around the world for over 2,000 years. Why is this scripture important? Paul was a zealot living on the darker side of life, and yet he was born again by the Holy Spirit of God, who loves him. Even when in prison, his writings are a testimony of how God's grace and love can save the most evil soul.

Jesus gives his followers sanctification through his teachings and followers. Dogmatic religious traditions or titles do not grant one access to eternal heaven. Only someone who does the will of God, and that is to "Love one another."

Matthew 7:21-23

I Never Knew You

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, '
I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

The soul that has the living Holly Spirit of love in their heart is simply not interested in doing any of the seven deadly sins. Holiness inside of them separates them from destructive lifestyles and behavior. It is too difficult to avoid the darkness when one is in the darkness. However, those who are the light know the righteous path and can save those who live in darkness.

"You cannot push out the darkness but you can turn on a light."
- Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

Answers to life's challenges come when we rely on our relationship with the Holy Spirit to guide us daily. The more we ask, the more answers come. The relationship with the creator is for us to bring heaven on earth. As Christ was a vessel for the Love of Good to work through Him, so must we. Bible scripture reminds us how Jesus and his Apostles did it, so can we.

So, in the issue of stopping people from being sucked into (or addicted to evil values and deeds) is to be the light. We don't try to defeat the darkness; it plays by its own dark rules. We dissolve darkness with the loving Will of God. From this point, we see why the Lord's Prayer is written as it is. When we have the relationship of our Father God in our hearts, we know the Holy Spirit is always there listening as a friend and guide. Knowing this, the Lord's Prayer becomes more about forming God's love now than about hoping He will fix things later. Some believe that the Lord's Prayer is simply how to start a longer prayer. I find this to be true and start each evening sleeping with the Lord's Prayer and a request for the Holy Spirit to teach and transform me. Gives for much sweeter dreams. In the morning, it serves to jumpstart the day with guidance. Again, the Lord's Prayer becomes less a hope or request and more an affirmation of our current relationship. I know the Lord's Prayer to be true because He has proven it time and again.

Why is the prayer in the Bible? For us to humbly surrender to God's Will to work through us, to help the lost souls on earth. It is not hopeful, one day will come down the road and save us. This prayer is about our daily relationship with Holiness.

I have found that one of my most effective prayers is very short, "Oh Lord I need you now." At which point I had better listen and act accordingly. Before I drop the motorcycle, you will hear that one-word prayer, "Jesus." There is no need for an emotional, repetitive, dogmatic, or charismatic introduction to conjure up the Holy Spirit's attention. My Omniscient and omnipresent Father is always and already there. The prayer is there to help give our full attention to the guidance and blessing of the Holy Spirit. It is more like a knock-knock "I'm hear Lord what can we do together?"

Matthew 6:7-10 NIV

7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
10 your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.”

Community

1 Thessalonians 5:14
And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

"I know a place were people love one another." How to evangelize neighbors.

If we really did love one another, there would not be crime. Sure, there would be plenty of stupid mistakes, but no crime.

It is said that in America, the number one illness is loneliness. Amazing for a country with the most material wealth, and through our cell phones and computers, we can tap into almost anything, anywhere in the world. And yet loneliness makes us feel like we have nothing, empty inside, and without a purpose. Sad. The only cure for loneliness is to be loved.

During the Great Awakening, the pressing issues of abolition, a country of drunkards, women's rights, minority rights in oppressive conditions from the Industrial Revolution, and oppressive religious institutions found a way out in the light of Jesus' teaching. In many ways, we overcome these evils over time, even though much suffering still remains in the greed of globalization. Globalization is a sanitized version 2.0 of colonization and wage suppression. All of these wrongs stem from heartless souls who turn their back on the commandment to Love one Another. Greed loves no one but itself. However, those who cared forced laws to be passed, caught the bar owners and the racist politicians and police. At times, change came at a great cost from the civil war, prohibition, crime wars, and civil rights riots. Jesus met the struggle of selfishness head-on and paid a heavy price. Even today, white supremacist politicians arrest people of color and place them in concentration camps while the rich and powerful squeeze the resources out of welfare, making the hungry hungrier in a nation overflowing with wealth. Battle as we may to teach the world to love one another, the enemy, non -believers, did not care then as they do not now. The leopard does not change its spots. The elite use to built castles and higher knight to keep the poor out and collect taxes, now they hire attorneys in expensive suits and personalized business AI systems. What is the difference between the two leaders passing up the battered robed soul on the road in Jesus time and the indifference of MBAs today? Not much. And yet we still have good Samaritans healing the suffering. MBAs today? Not so much. And yet we still have good Samaritans like Doctors Without Borders healing the suffering.

As challenging and traumatizing as surviving in our very complex world is, we need some place to go that takes the pressure off and is safe. Some places where we are not judged by race, class, looks, or the dumb things we have done in the past week. We need a safe, loving place that encourages us when we fall. Cares about us when our hearts break. Supports us in

raising kids and offers a place where they can learn loving values, how to treat people kindly, and find supportive, like-minded friends. If we take off on that and follow the Holy Spirit of Jesus, then we have a real church we get something we call “the Body of Christ.” When a church truly loves and supports one another, the flowing water of Jesus moves through the whole place; it literally has the Body of Christ in it. At Brooklyn Tabernacle, we used to tell. People you do not have to convert anyone. Bring them here, and the Holy Spirit will do the rest.

This is how the Great Awakening worked. People came in masses desperately wanting to escape the cruel lives into one that was safe, loving, and accepted them no matter where or what level of destitution they came from. John Wesley was thrown out of his church for bringing the poor into the building. And yet in the fields of the British Isles, tens of thousands found the Holy Spirit of God not only loved them but jumped inside their filthy bodies to transform them. Jesus responds to anyone who sincerely seeks healing in all humility. The small church must become a great awakening where we humbly come to change. Not just to seek God’s love but to give God’s love to each and every member. It only works when everyone cares about everyone else. Church is not a place for taking. If everyone is waiting to take, then the church dies in empty traditions. We have all seen these churches where the congregation spreads out and sits 12 feet apart, sad.

I once took over a small Methodist church in a big stone New England building with about 25 members sitting ten feet apart from one another and a group in the back of the road. Thee times the Lord told me “Bring them to me.” So told them I could not speak until they filled the first three rows. It took less prodding than I thought because Lord showed me their desire to be together. After they settle in, I said. “Nope still not good enough. Everyone stand.” You could tell some wanted to go back to their safe pew. However, I knew these people and that they cared for one another. “Now everyone hold hands with you are your friends and neighbors.” They knew what I was doing, and you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as it walked into the room. A bunch started to cry. “Now this is the Body of Christ. Don’t you feel deep inside how much you love one another and need to be loved?” To break the mood, I said

In contrast, the entitled and racist will never know the gates of heaven nor any peace on earth.

Yes You

"Deep in the inmost recess of his being, hidden an unfelt,
every child of God has the mighty Spirit of God."
- Andrew Murray

What proof do I have that Jesus cares about someone as flawed as you?

Jesus was not for the elites. He was for the oddballs, oppressed and rejected like you. No one understands how flawed, stupid, and terrible the things we have done in life are. And we were all born by our Father God as His children. That means He both cares and understands the conditions we must face. Jesus understands the phrase "herding cats" better than anyone. He also understands that, because of our hurt backgrounds, building a relationship can be challenging. Hence the patience of God is call grace.

What a bunch of oddballs Jesus picked to launch a Gospel of Love that would extend to the far reaches of the earth. Filled with cultural and religious prejudices and misinformation in their backgrounds, they would have to change in the most uncomfortable and transformative ways in order to teach a simple thing like Love one another. One was a doubter, another had serious ego problems, another was a tax collector (despised by jews), and of course, one betrayed him. And yet he loved them all. Again and again, he would teach them and put them in difficult, if not dangerous, situations, to make it sink in. The three stories on the Samaritans all deal with tribal racism that is deeply ingrained in the Jewish mind. The watched and helped him heal thousands from every walk of life: elite Romans, Rabi children, untouchable lepers, and demon-possessed people. Not only did they heal without asking for money, but they also watched him heal people without them requesting it. All notions of Hebrew pride, power, money, and evil judgment had to be put aside in the hearts of his followers. Jesus empowered and conversed with women as equals, it was a shock to get used to. Jesus demonstrated that He really did love everyone.

Being the Son of the God of Love, he was also Love. Embed that deep into your soul: Jesus is Love. When you love others in Jesus name, it is the Love of God pouring through you. Jesus referred to it as life-giving waters. Love is the cosmic life-giving, creating force. Jesus did not just teach these things; he did them. We are not just to learn about the Gospel of Love, we are to do it. Yes, we are to love the world the way Jesus loved us. We may not be able to heal people on command, but we can offer free healthcare to the world. We are that powerful.

Ah, but you don't understand what I have done. Get rid of that self-help, abandon what I deserve, and karmic nonsense. Saul of Tarsus was a Hebrew Zealot, a temple guard leader who killed and persecuted Christians. Some believe that Saul may have actually killed some

of the people Jesus healed. Well, after Jesus ' crucifixion, the king ordered him to go persecute Christian in Damascus. Jesus came to him in a blinding light, blinded Saul, and asked him, “Why are you persecuting Him?” After days of prayer, a poor man restored Saul's sight, telling him he had been chosen to preach the Gospel. sand returned to Jerusalem to apprentice under a very alarmed set of Apostles for four years. Changing his name to Paul, meaning "small," he became a powerful missionary, founded early churches, and then wrote the majority of the New Testament while in prison. You see, it is not the dumb and sinful things you have done that bring you into a relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit; they can all be forgiven. What starts a relationship with our creator is, first, our grateful love for him, and, second, what we are willing to do for him.

> Keep in mind that the relationship with the Holy Spirit within us is not about us being on our own, doing things for God. The experience of doing things in partnership with God.

In 2003, when I finally decided to walk in my relationship with Jesus, I was a deeply broken and flawed personality. I thought I knew it all when, in fact, I was filled with nonsensical assumptions. Sometimes at night, it felt like breaking glass inside. And old Richard of the past had to die and be let go for a new birth to fully take root. While this was an intense time for me, Father God’s work and guidance never ends. Once a parent, always a parent. Is it worth it? My life since then, I could never have imagined or planned. Working with the poor in the US and the four mission rips to Africa changed me forever. Once an arrogant, entitled soul, now loves the world beyond measure, even with all its ugly cruelty.

Jesus did not entrust his teaching to the academic, temple leader, or politician. With the exception of Paul the Apostle, who was anointed after Jesus ' crucifixion. Jesus anointed the common soul, the old balls, poor and broken. He befriended the people of the streets because they were hungry for a gospel of love and knew how to spread it. The priest or professor with multiple letters after their name has nothing over the person cleaning the grocery store floors at night. At the time, this was upsetting to Temple leadership. Why would Jesus eat and drink with the village tax collectors, merchants, women, and sinners and not them? Simple, because He loved them and wanted to save them. What the Temple leadership could not grasp was that Jesus was with them because they wanted him there. The people loved their messiah and hung on every word of the Son of God who loved them in an inhospitable, judgmental, and cruel world.

It was the common people who loved and came to hear Jesus preach, while the establishment turned their backs on the truth and walked away.

I tell you the truth. A relationship with your Creator is available to anyone, no matter their station in life. However, the only door to walk through is with open-hearted, sincere humility.

Only then does one gain the eyes that see and the ears that hear to maintain such a relationship.

John 15:16 NIV

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Corinthians 1:27-30 NIV

27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Acts 4:13 After Peter heals the cripple at the temple

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

FYI: Untrained translates into idiots.

Born in 1839, Jerry McAuley was the scariest criminal in the slums of NYC's Seaport. He discovered Jesus on the frozen floors of his Sing Sing jail. He went back to the violent slums of New York to build the first gospel rescue mission. McCawley changed many souls in NYC when there were two bars on every block and prostitutes throughout the city. McAuley Bowery Mission transformed the people and churches of NY. The witness of the city's worst of the worst set hearts on fire, who were hopeless against the violence of the NY slums and a world that had failed them. When McCawley died, NYC stopped to paid their respects at his funeral. Today, there are missions throughout the world that feed and transform millions of souls, based on his model. If God will take a filthy, lying murderer from the depths of society to save thousands, what do you think He can do with you?

The start of any relationship with God is to just say, “Jesus, save me.” Omniscience is always listening and eternally loves you.

One Commandment

1 John 4:19
19 We love because he first loved us.

The creation and you exist because our Father God loved it into existence.

Everything Jesus did was out of love for us. The same Love His Father God creates with. If we want a relationship with Jesus through His Holy Spirit, then everything we do and are to become is based on our loving one another. The path to heaven on earth is to love one another. The only way to establish a living, breathing relationship with Jesus is through love.

One can easily do a ton of rituals and emotional praise, even declare that you are born again. But if you have not…, it's just mood-making and entitlement pride. A relationship with Holiness is a blessing. However, the process of sanctification demands that we radically change who we are in order to change what the future will be. Sanctification is the humble experience of walking a path of Thy Will be done.

Christianity is not about humble obedience to dogmatic or authoritarian rulers. The path with Jesus has us acting based on what we love to do. We move with Jesus' Holy Spirit because of our love for him and our trust that the advice he provides us is always right. We find comfort in what we see and hear because the Holy Spirit has proven Himself to be 100% right and in the best interest of all. Being divinely honest placed Jesus at odds with the selfish world around him, often in dangerous situations. A relationship with him will likewise place us in uncomfortable or dangerous situations.

Holiness will set you apart from the world. The prophetic is not invited to cocktail parties and rarely found in church. At least the real ones are not. In one way, we walk with eternal love in our hearts, but in another, we are separated from a blind, deaf world that refuses the truth that all blessings come from love. Eternity is the reward for a relationship with the eternal Holy Spirit, while all things material have their end.

In a good marriage, the relationship between parents and their children remains unbroken. Even at work or on the soccer field, there is unseen awareness and commitment to one another. It's based on a path united together against all the trials and tribulations life throws at them. It's all based on love. For those raised in healthy families, the word love has a sacred meaning. However, for many of us raised by dysfunctional, abusive, or alcoholic parents, the word love can become twisted, even distrustful, our to reach or even a lie. For those of us not raised by perfect parents, we need to learn what love means. That takes time, patience, mercy, and faith that a trusting kind love is possible. In one way, it presents a hurdle to grasping how to love one another. And yet, it can turn into a craving for what the Holy Spirit

denied us during life. The Amazing thing about our Father God's grace is that in those dark, rejected moments He flies and saves those who cry out to him. I am one of those souls.

For those with dysfunctional parents, you can become the father or mother you always wanted to be. For those whose parents fell short, there is the Father's Holy Spirit that will come into your heart and never fail you, hurt you, or put you down. A father who knows your true purpose and potential in His Divine plan. He will help you be that child of God, no matter how far you fell or where you are. God's Spirit does this because He loves you; you are His child, and He wants the best for you.

> I grew up as a child of alcoholics, feeling neglected, and rejected. Have zero memories and laughter in the house. I believed I could never be a good parent, as I did not have the skills. One day, my wife said, "You can be the father you always wanted." We planned and had two wonderful kids. But then came a divorce. I was taking my daughter to large Nutcracker tryouts when she was about 8. She started as a scurry mouse. When I took her to the first rehearsal, the NY director asked for adult partners who knew how to dance. She was sitting on my feet and looked up at me, knowing I could dance. "Don't you dare daddy." She said. I flew in for rehearsals in CT from all over the country, from her elementary school days until her senior year in High School, on point spinning in Spanish. This went on for seven years, costing thousands in flights and missing many a client meeting. In those years, we would sit together in rehearsals doing homework, and I would be on my laptop. A year later, when she married a wonderful guy, we did full-blown swing dancing for the Father-Daughter dance, with people standing on chairs, cheering. So yes, you can have the love you always wanted by giving it the way it should be given. It was Jesus who got me through all of that.

Addictions have us doing things we do not want to do and ending up in places we never wanted to go. A loving commitment has us doing what we never thought we could do and ending up in a place we could never have imagined. Forget the self-help books; only the path of love sets us free.

You will discover the command to love one another is not so much a law as a path with a divine friend, Jesus. A path not only into the light. A path to become the light. A path for others to follow. In this relationship, the command is the way. Yes, we want the light of Jesus; we want to give the light of Jesus.

Yeah You

We love the underdog in our movies and stories. When the beaten team comes back in the last inning, we cheer them on like crazy. Perhaps we love the against-all-odds stories because we know life is like that. We are all the underdog and the divine light at the same time. What a great blessing life is.

Mark 12:10-11

10 Haven't you read this passage of Scripture:

"'The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
11 the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes

More

Read: Luke 15:11-31 The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Books By Richard C.Close

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Appendix

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Quotes

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